

Majority of Palestinians opposes attacks

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — A majority of Palestinians oppose armed attacks against Israel, while one-third support such violence, according to a Palestinian survey released Monday. The poll also indicated that most Palestinians feel their economic situation has either worsened or stayed the same since the signing of the 1993 autonomy accord. The survey was conducted by the Independent Centre for Palestine Research and Studies at the end of September and has a margin of error of three per cent. The poll included answers from 1,251 respondents in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and the autonomous Gaza Strip. Asked about armed attacks on Israelis, 55.8 per cent said they opposed such violence while 32.7 per cent supported it. Support for violence was higher among factions that oppose the autonomy accord, but even among Hamas followers, 40.3 per cent opposed armed attacks, compared to 50.8 per cent who supported them. The self-rule government got its worse rating on the economy, with only 7.5 per cent of the respondents saying their situation has improved in the last year. Some 40.8 per cent said it has become worse and 50 per cent said it has not changed at all. Some 30.9 per cent said they were satisfied with the performance of the self-rule government while 40.8 per cent said it was too early to judge.

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Jordan, Israel initial peace treaty

Israel accepts Jordanian territorial and water rights, agrees to immediate measures; final document to be signed this month

King hails accord as a fresh start and a present to all Jordanians

By P.V. Vivekanand with agency dispatches

JORDAN AND ISRAEL initiated a peace treaty on Monday, signalling the most significant turning point yet in the recent history of the Middle East. The treaty, finalised after weeks of intense negotiations and the highest level of leadership of the two countries, was initiated by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin at a ceremony hosted by His Majesty King Hussein at the Al Hashemiyeh Palace in Amman.

Full details of the treaty, expected to be signed by the King at a ceremony attended by U.S. President Bill Clinton at a site along the Jordanian-Israeli border in the Wadi Araba desert on Oct. 27, were not immediately released.

Officials said a few minor details remained to be negotiated before the final signing of the agreement, which was initiated when King Hussein and Mr. Rabin met in Washington on July 25 and declared an end to a 46-year state of belligerency between their countries.

According to reports, Israel has met Jordan's demands for the return of the Kingdom's territory and its

fair share of water from the Jordan and Yarmouk rivers.

On the territorial count, according to reports, Israel will return all the Jordanian land it has occupied since 1947 but will lease back some of the lands in the south where Israelis have developed agriculture farms or offer alternate pieces of lands of equal size elsewhere along the border. The treaty has several segments outlining these arrangements.

Israel also agreed to immediately divert 50 million cubic metres of water to Jordan from the Sea of Galilee and will also help the Kingdom get another 50 million cubic metres by constructing reservoirs and dams on the Jordan and Yarmouk rivers. In addition, a plant will be built for purification of brackish water.

The projects are expected to cost \$150 million and the U.S. will be approached for financing.

"We got all our rights and even more than we dreamt of," Jordan's chief water negotiator Munther Hadadin told Reuters.

Jordan will be only the second Arab country to make peace with Israel. Egypt did so in 1979.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) signed an accord with Israel in September 1993 after months of clandestine negotiations.

"Hopefully, it is a fresh beginning and a fresh start," said the King.

He said before the signing: "I'm happy with... what have been achieved on the road we have chosen, the road of peace, hope, stability."

"It is a present I offer to all Jordanians, young and old, men and women, and all members of this family."

Mr. Rabin called the signing "a historically unique moment" and said the treaty would be a "cornerstone for a new Middle East in which this cooperation will serve to replace the hatred, violence and war."

It is the latest accomplishment in the three-year-old U.S.-sponsored Arab-Israeli peace process.

The accord gave a much-needed boost to the peace process at a time when it is running into roadblocks.

Syrian-Israeli negotiations have been stalled since February, despite intensive U.S. efforts to revive them and Israel's relations with the PLO are strained as their September 1993 autonomy accord is marred by violence from extremists on both

sides. King Hussein, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres applauded as Dr. Majali and Mr. Rabin exchanged the document. Earlier, a visibly emotional Peres embraced the King and kissed him on the cheeks.

"I would like to salute you for your cooperation and your efforts that enabled us to reach this point," King Hussein told a beaming Rabin.

"I would like to say to the people of Israel we are very very happy..." he added.

"I hope and pray that this is something that we leave behind for all the generations to come for them to enjoy and cherish... peace with a dignity."

Mr. Rabin called it "a great historic day, a unique day."

He praised the King's courage to pursue peace with Israel and guide his teams to devise "the structure of peace based on international law, legitimate rights of independent sovereign people and above all peace with dignity to both sides."

The breakthrough was reached after night-long negotiations to bridge gaps

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His Majesty King Hussein watches as Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin initial a peace treaty at the Hashemiyeh Palace in Amman on Monday (Photo by Yousef Allan)

Opposition rejects accord, but restricts itself to democracy

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Opposition parties on Monday declared their rejection of the peace treaty that was initiated by Jordan and Israel but appeared reconciled to their inability to change the course of events.

Representatives of opposition groups in the Kingdom told the Jordan Times they will resist the peace agreement, which was announced by His Majesty King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin yesterday, but stressed their opposition will be restricted to democratic and constitutional means.

Spokesman of the Islamic Action Front (IAF) Hanzeh Mansour said: "We feel sorrow and sadness" towards Monday's development and said his party, the most in-

fluential in the Kingdom, does not believe the agreement will bring about peace to the region.

"Peace that is imposed and peace that is not just cannot last," Mr. Mansour said, contending that the peace agreement between Jordan and Israel was neither just nor comprehensive.

But head of the leftist Jordanian Baath Arab Socialist Party Ahmad Najdawi admitted the opposition groups do not have the power to prevent the signing of the peace treaty, expected next week.

"Our bet is on the people who will eventually reject the agreement," said Mr. Najdawi, whose party rejects the peace process in its entirety.

The leftist Democratic Party for Progress in Jordan also said it opposed the peace deal between Jordan and Israel

but pointed out that the group's position stems from its expectation that the deal will fail to restore all occupied Arab lands.

Engaging in peace talks is meant to produce a peace treaty, Ali Amer, head of the party, told the Jordan Times. But he said the peace his group would support is one that is comprehensive and can lead to the return of all lands occupied since 1967.

In a statement issued in reaction to the announcement of the peace deal, the IAF parliamentary bloc said:

"We were shocked by the news of the initialing of the agreement and the reception of Rabin in our capital, Amman, an act that did not take into account the feelings of our people."

The IAF, which contended

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His Majesty King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister hold a joint press conference in Amman on Monday (AFP photo)

Clinton pays tribute to King, Rabin; may attend signing

Combined agency dispatches

PRAISING the "two visionary leaders" of Jordan and Israel, President Bill Clinton on Monday said he was "delighted" the two countries have reached agreement on the text of a peace treaty.

"These two visionary leaders today resolved that their nations would henceforth live in peace and as good neighbours," Mr. Clinton said in a statement.

Administration officials said Mr. Clinton probably would go to the Middle East around Oct. 27 to participate in a signing ceremony. He oversaw an agreement between the two countries in July to end their state of belligerency, and in September 1993 presided at the White House as Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) came to terms.

The agreement reached by His Majesty King Hussein and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin of Israel "was an extraordinary achievement that must be welcomed by the friends of peace all around

the world," Mr. Clinton said. Mr. Clinton telephoned King Hussein and Mr. Rabin while on his way to an appearance in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and both leaders invited him to the signing, according to White House Press Secretary Dee Dee Myers.

Ms. Myers said a decision on whether to accept the invitation would be made in the next few days.

"He'd like to go," she said.

Israeli state television said the ceremony would be held next Thursday, Oct. 27, on the border between the two countries in the desert north of the Red Sea.

Mr. Clinton also said the agreement boded well for Israeli-Syrian talks aimed at reaching an agreement on peace in the Middle East.

"I think it is very good. We are continuing to work there and we are encouraged. We just have to keep working," he said.

Mr. Clinton stressed the U.S. efforts to bring about the accord.

"The United States has stood by them and worked

with them and we will stand by them every step of the way," he said.

"At a time when hatred and extremism and threatening behaviour still stalks the Middle East, this agreement reminds us that moderation and reason are prevailing, that nations can put conflict behind them, that courageous statesmen can lead their people to peace," Mr. Clinton said before he left.

He congratulated the two leaders and the people of their countries and said, "Together they are embarking on a journey—a journey of peace that will bring a bright future for generations to come."

He said the United States "has stood by them and worked with them and we will stand by them every step of the way."

Ms. Myers said Mr. Clinton had told King Hussein, "It's a wonderful day. This is a great tribute to both of you. The world is grateful to you." He told Mr. Rabin, "We are all cheering for you."

Rare consensus in Israel over peace accord with Jordan

By Dan Perry
The Associated Press

TEL AVIV — The peace accord initiated between Israel and Jordan Monday won Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin rare approval even from right-wingers normally opposed to his peace moves with the Arabs.

Political leaders, newspaper commentators and ordinary Israelis hailed the imminent establishment of open borders and full diplomatic and trade relations with the eastern neighbour with which the country shares its longest border.

"We are very close to a full, signed peace, and of course this should be welcomed," said Binyamin Netanyahu, leader of the opposition Likud Party. "I think both sides profit."

The accord, to be formally signed next week, becomes the only comprehensive agreement between Israel and an Arab country since the precedent-setting peace treaty with Egypt in 1979.

The development dulled Israelis' anguish over last week's killings by militants of a kidnapped soldier, a commando trying to rescue him and a young woman shot dead in an attack on Jerusalem's cafe district.

"Despite the fact that painful events like last week's will recur, peace is inevitable at this stage," said legislator Haim Ramon, a key Rabin supporter.

He predicted the accord with Jordan will also stimulate talks with the most bitter enemy among Israel's neighbours, Syria. Those negotiations have been stymied over the strategic Golan Heights which Israel occupied in 1967 and Damascus wants back.

But Mr. Netanyahu, who bitterly opposed last year's autonomy accord with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) said his

approval in this case derived from the symbolic concessions — in contrast to Mr. Rabin's declared willingness to pay a territorial price for peace with Syria.

"If the prime minister has reached such an agreement in which most of the (disputed) land remains in the hands of Israel... then it is a good arrangement," Mr. Netanyahu told Israel Radio.

Dan Meridor, a former justice minister and leading opposition legislator, said he believed the accord with Jordan would win wide approval when brought before Israel's normally divided parliament "as long as there are no surprises."

One such pratfall could be any concession in the treaty text on Jerusalem, where Jordan still has a role in administering Muslim holy sites, he told Israel Television.

Former Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir sounded the only sour note, chiding his successor for negotiating too enthusiastically.

"I don't see a reason in principle to oppose it," Mr. Shamir said of peace with Jordan. "But there are also fears, especially when I see the rush, suddenly we are people in a rush. When they (negotiate) for a whole night, there is haste. I hope it doesn't reflect in the content of the agreement."

Zvi Friedman, a 30-year-old doctor who opposes Mr. Rabin's peace moves with the PLO and Syria, said he welcomed the agreement with Jordan as "the one case where the Arabs don't want anything from us, like territorial compromises that endanger our security."

"I feel a bit tired from this state of war," said Yosefa Yavin, a computer analyst strolling on the Jerusalem pedestrian street where bullet marks on a few limestone walls bore witness to last Sunday's shooting attack.

Jordanians optimistic treaty would herald better times

Special to the Jordan Times

BY MOST accounts Jordanians agreed Monday that it was high time for an agreement between Jordan and Israel. Never mind that it came as a small surprise to people tuning in to radios and televisions after work, and never mind also that those who knew before got their information from Israel Radio and television that broadcast live the initialing of a final peace agreement between the two countries.

The agreement outlines land and water rights of the two countries, giving Jordan back most of the land occupied by Israel since 1948 with "minor modifications."

"Well, maybe I heard the news from Israeli TV at about 1:30 p.m.," said Salim Abu Dahab as he sipped coffee at a downtown cafe.

"And maybe I didn't hear it from Jordan until about 2:10 or so. I was a bit surprised that it was today, but on the other hand we should all have been expecting it. And anyway, it's a good surprise."

Most Jordanians welcome peace between the countries, if only for economic reasons — they expect to see an increase in tourism and investment, and they recognise Jordan's importance as a gateway to the wealthy Arab countries whose markets appeal to the Israelis. Most would be hard pressed to object to better circumstances that peace offers.

In a coffee house downtown overlooking Al Hussein Mosque sits a crowd of men who have watched this complex story unfold from beginning to end. They spoke nonchalantly about it amongst themselves. The de-

tails may be sketchy right now, but they are putting their faith in their King.

"What he wants, we want," explained a middle-aged accountant, inhaling his Bahraini tobacco. "We trust him that this is good for us (Jordanians and Palestinians)."

A group of young women sipping coffee in Bahiche, usually preoccupied with academic and social life, takes the agreement seriously. Although more sceptical of the intentions of the Israelis than their elders, they agree that Jordan could use an economic boost, but at the same time share concern for the future of the Palestinians in Jordan.

"Jordan is my country," said Mai, a 20-year-old of Palestinian descent. "And

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GIA claims bombings, threatens more attacks

PARIS (AFP) — The Armed Islamic Group (GIA), the most radical of Algeria's fundamentalist guerrilla movements, on Monday claimed responsibility for a wave of car bombings last week and threatened further attacks.

In a statement published by the Arab-language daily Al Hayat, received in Paris, the GIA said Wednesday's bombings in the capital Algiers, which left three of the attackers dead and wounded four civilians, were but a warning.

The movement threatened further, bloodier attacks against "the impious enemy which does not understand the language of the sword" in a reference to Algeria's secular regime.

Five car bombs exploded in Algiers, in front of the university, a student hostel, the ministry of justice and close to a state-run company's premises and a supermarket.

Al Hayat, edited in London, also said President Liamine Zeroual could shortly carry out a government reshuffle.

Sources close to the president said this could concern the ministers of the interior, justice, communications, housing, religious affairs, public works and youth and sport, the paper said.

Last week's bombings caused only slight damage, but marked a significant shift in strategy by Islamic guerrillas and undermined government claims to be gaining the upper hand against the fundamentalists.

The psychological impact on the city was tremendous, not only because of the high level of the organisation needed to carry out the virtually simultaneous blasts, but because of the hold choice of targets — all in central Algiers and in broad daylight.

The bombings followed an increase in attacks on security forces which saw at least 10 policemen killed. On Sunday, a 19th Algerian journalist was assassinated and the kidnapped head of the national sugar company was found murdered.

Security forces late last month claimed to have killed Sherif Goumri, the leader of the GIA.

Security analysts in Algiers said the use of car bombs was more than a simple reaction to recent events and could mark a new development in the three-year fundamentalist

war against Algeria's secular government.

The GIA earlier this year announced that it would attack any secular schools above primary level which reopened after the summer holidays, prompting the deployment of 1,500 special guards to ensure security for the 300,000 pupils who returned to classes on Oct. 1.

Dozens of journalists, teachers, doctors and other intellectuals have been killed in attacks generally blamed on and sometimes claimed by armed Muslim fundamentalist guerrillas. Sixty-four foreigners have also been assassinated.

The violence, which has taken at least 10,000 lives according to the regime, began when the army intervened in January 1992 to cancel the second round of general elections the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was poised to win.

The FIS was subsequently outlawed.

Last month, the government released the top leaders of the FIS, convicted in 1992 of stage security offences and jailed for 12 years, in a bid to promote dialogue and end the bloody political standoff.

On Monday, the husband of a former government spokeswoman and minister was stabbed to death Monday in his office in central Algiers, authorities announced.

Mohammad Redha Aslaoui, a dentist, was attacked by four militants and died in hospital, police said.

His wife, Lella Aslaoui, an attorney, resigned as spokeswoman and as secretary of state for family affairs last month to protest against the release of the jailed FIS militants.

The GIA also claimed responsibility for the murders of two Frenchmen earlier this month.

The GIA also said in the latest issue of its underground leaflet that one of the two Frenchmen "was held several days and, after an investigation, his throat slit."

Nineteen of the 64 foreigners killed in Algeria in the past year have been French.

French engineer Jean-Pierre Maniere was found with his throat cut on Oct. 8. Another Frenchman, Roger Merle, was shot dead two days later.



His Majesty King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin at a joint press conference they held in Amman on Monday (Photo by Youssef Allan)

Libya, Arab League try to break Lockerbie deadlock

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Libya and the Arab League are searching for a new formula to get the two suspects for the 1988 Pan Am crash over Lockerbie. Scotland, out of Tripoli and turned over to an Arab country, diplomats said over the weekend.

The aim is to show Libya is sincere in wanting to cooperate with the international community and give the suspects up for trial in Europe — but not in Britain or the United States. In turn, Arab states hope U.N. sanctions against Libya eventually will be lifted.

So far, however, the first step of the plan has been stymied because no Arab country was willing to accept the two accused, Abdul Basit Ali Mohammad Al Megrahi and Al Amin Khalifa Fhimah. They have been indicted in Britain and the United States in connection with the 1986 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103, which killed 270 people.

"It's a jigsaw puzzle and we hope the pieces will fall into place," said one Arab League representative. League committee of seven

nation states met two weeks ago at the ministerial level in New York. They suggested that Libya write to the secretary-general of the Arab League, Council Esmat Abdul Meguid and offer to give up the suspects.

He would then begin negotiations with British and U.S. officials to see if they would consent to a trial in the Hague or in U.N. headquarters in Geneva, proposals both nations have turned down previously.

But Western envoys said Washington and London could be put in a difficult position if Libya was serious and transferred the two out of the country.

"If they got them as far as Cairo, it could be embarrassing to Britain and the United States by showing a degree of seriousness which we have not seen so far," one Security Council source said, adding, however, that he was not sure this would solve the problem.

Libya's Foreign Minister Omar Mustafa Al Montasser, spoke to numerous Arab delegations as well as British and French officials, at the United Nations last week but left with few commitments.

Afghans reach new formula for president

KABUL (AFP) — Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani has reached an agreement with three other Mujahedeen leaders on a formula for the election of a new president by a traditional assembly, Radio Kabul said Monday.

The eight-point agreement came in the eastern city of Jalalabad, where Mr. Rabbani has been holding talks with leaders of other Afghan factions as well as commanders.

Mr. Rabbani's agreement with Mujahedeen leader Rasool Sayyaf, Hezbi-Islami faction leader Yunus Khalis and Harakat-i-Inqilab leader Maulavi Nahi Mohammadi calls for 30 representatives to be elected from each province.

These provincial representatives would meet and organise a national assembly, or shura, which would appoint a new Afghan leader, to replace Mr. Rabbani.

Analysts here interpreted the announcement as an attempt to present an image of Afghan harmony to United Nations special representative Mahmud Mestiri. In his third attempt to

bring reconciliation to the warring factions battling in Kabul since the overthrow of the communist regime in April 1992, Mr. Mestiri has held talks with Afghan specialists in Quetta, Pakistan.

Mr. Rabbani's press spokesman, Abdul Aziz Murad, said that the Jalalabad meetings of Mr. Rabbani complemented the United Nations-sponsored gathering in Quetta.

"These two meetings can help each other because the Mujahedeen leaders and the U.N. both want a peace settlement in Afghanistan," Mr. Murad said.

Acknowledging that Afghanistan needs and welcomes the cooperation of the U.N., Mr. Murad reiterated the preference that peace forums be held inside the country rather than abroad.

Mr. Murad said the eight-point agreement reached by Mr. Rabbani and the others, which underscored the Mujahedeen role in the Afghan government, was not taken as a rejection of the potential contribution of other Afghans, such as those represented at Quetta.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Iran finds remains of 1,000 soldiers

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran has found the remains of 1,000 of its soldiers and militiamen killed in the 1980-1988 war with Iraq, the official agency IRNA reported Monday. A member of a committee in charge of conducting a search for the missing-in-action (MIAs) told IRNA the remains of 300 of the soldiers had been buried three metres deep. The search covered an area of 120 square kilometres in Talayeh region of Khuzestan province, bordering Iraq, he said. Searchers had faced a difficult task as the area is under water most of the year round and littered with anti-personnel and anti-vehicle mines as well as barbed wire set up by Iraq during the war, the official added. The remains of several Iraqi soldiers were also discovered and would be returned to Iraq, he said. The remains of more than 2,500 Iraqi soldiers have been discovered and returned to Baghdad since the end of the war, he added. Iran has found the remains of 3,000 of its own soldiers and voluntary militia killed during the war. A mass funeral is to be held Wednesday in Tehran. Tehran has prepared a list of 32,000 Iranians, both soldiers and civilians, who have been held prisoner or been missing in Iraq since the end of war.

Bomb aimed at Iraqi opposition kills one

NICOSIA (R) — A time-bomb planted at the headquarters of an opposition group in northern Iraq killed one person and wounded three, an opposition Iraqi news organisation said in a statement received on Monday. The Iraqi Broadcasting Corporation, based in the city of Salahuddin in northern Iraq, said the explosion occurred in the town of Enkawa, near the main city of Erbil, on Sunday morning. The statement did not name the targeted opposition group, but the area is within the Kurdish protection zone set up by Western powers after the 1991 Gulf war. There was no independent confirmation of the reported bombing, which the statement blamed on the government. The statement, quoting one of its correspondents in the city of Erbil, said the explosion destroyed house fronts and wrecked cars. It said the bomb carried an explosive charge of about five kilograms of TNT.

Unmarried couple jailed for kissing

ABU DHABI (AFP) — A United Arab Emirates (UAE) court sentenced and Indian couple to one year in jail to be followed by deportation after they admitted kissing each other, Al Itihad daily reported. The 22-year-old man admitted to kissing the woman, a housemaid, just once after calling at her employer's home in the eastern town of Dibba Al Hosn in Fujairah, the newspaper said. The maid said she asked him to kiss her after inviting him in to light a candle during a power cut. Police were called by the maid's employer who suspected there was someone in the house, and arrested the unmarried couple, neither of whom were identified. Unmarried couples are forbidden to kiss or be alone together, and any kissing in public is banned in this and other conservative Gulf states. Some 400,000 Indians live in the UAE.

Kuwait crime rate drops since start of stand off

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — Kuwait's crime rate dropped considerably when news of an Iraqi build-up on its borders filtered through, the Interior Ministry said Sunday. The ministry's public relations director, Abdul Al Ibrahim, said the fall was due "to increased preventive measures aimed at containing any negative repercussions of the Iraqi threats on security." Increased police patrols and more control points across the country contributed to this exceptional fall in the crime rate. "Since Oct. 6 there has not been one act of sabotage, terrorism or other (acts) recorded," he told the official agency KUNA. An Interior Ministry report on Oct. 5, just before the crisis was sparked, said that the crime rate in the emirate had spiralled since the end of the Gulf war in Feb. 1991. According to the ministry's figures, 15,622 crimes had been recorded in 1993, compared with 12,779 in 1992 — a leap of 22 per cent.

Syrians arrest another Fateh official

SIDON, Lebanon (R) — Syrian forces arrested another official of Yasser Arafat's Fateh movement in South Lebanon on Monday, bringing to four the number of the group's officials picked up in 24 hours. Palestinian sources said. They said Syrian security forces arrested Mahmoud Al Asadi, Fateh's top financial official in Lebanon, at his home in the city of Sidon, 40 kilometres south of Beirut. Syrian security members on Sunday detained Fateh's top political representative in Lebanon Khaled Aref and two of his aides as they drove between Sidon and the southern port of Tyre. Syrian troops are not stationed south of Sidon, but Syrian security members set up a roadblock at dawn on the main coastal road to the south and detained Mr. Aref and his aides. The reason for the arrests was not known.

Last 300 Jews to quit Syria

NICOSIA (AFP) — The last 300 Jews still living in Syria are due to quit the country for good on Tuesday after secret talks mediated by the United States, diplomats in the region said Monday. The group is due to arrive at Ben Gurion airport close to Tel Aviv, the diplomats said without being able to give precise details of their schedule. U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher helped to mediate the secret negotiations on the fate of the last Jews in Syria, they added. Mr. Christopher made another tour of the Middle East last week in a bid to break the deadlock in talks between Israel and Syria. The 300 stayed in the country after Damascus allowed Jews to leave the country freely in April 1992, a Jewish leader, Yusef Jafati, told the London-based daily Al Hayat last week. "Jews have not political problems in Syria and they all have current exit visas," he said. At the start of Arab-Israeli peace talks in October 1991 about 3,400 Jews were living in Syria.

Opposition rejects accord

(Continued from page 1)

the agreement was signed in disregard to the wishes of the representatives of the people, called on all members of the Lower House of Parliament and political parties in the Kingdom to express their rejection of the deal.

"Based on our Islamic beliefs, which declare Palestine from the sea to the river a Muslim Waqf that nobody can give up, we reiterate that jihad is our only choice to liberate Palestine," the statement said.

The IAF pledged to fight the agreement with all the power it has, urging people to work hard to abort it in protection of their land and faith.

Mr. Mansour told the Jordan Times the IAF will escalate its opposition to the peace process after Parliament convenes, expressing hope that other deputies will

join the Islamists in working against the treaty.

But indications are the IAF will fail to win support of the majority of deputies for its bid since more than 50 deputies have publicly said they supported the Washington Declaration and the peace process.

The Constitution stipulates that agreements be presented to the House for ratification after they are signed by the executive authorities.

Mr. Mansour said: "The opening of Parliament will give us a real opportunity to fight the agreement," adding the front will organise rallies and other public activities to express its rejection of the treaty.

But he said the government should prove its commitment to democracy by allowing such activities which he described as legal means to express different points of view.

A group of eight opposition leftist, Islamist and pan-Arabist parties had earlier spoken strongly against the Washington Declaration, declaring July 25, the day it was signed a day of public mourning but their call produced

little if any response from the people.

Despite opposition claims that the majority of Jordanians oppose the peace process with Israel, they have yet to present any proof of their claim.

Just as on July 25, there were no signs of popular discontent that the opposition said exists among the people towards the deal yesterday, with life proceeding as normal in the capital and other cities of the Kingdom.

Russia suggests date

(Continued from page 12)

nay who said that the "continued presence of Saddam Hussein as president of Iraq makes these questions (on easing or lifting sanctions) more difficult to answer satisfactorily."

He said Mr. Hannay's comments were "a clear example of the illegal manner of acting towards the question of Iraq" and it was a violation of international law

to question the legitimacy of the Iraqi government.

Mr. Hannay repeated assertions that if Iraq wanted to ameliorate the impact of sanctions on its people it should accept a one-time limited flow of oil under strict U.N. monitoring.

Mr. Christopher said earlier Monday that Baghdad should not be "rewarded" for withdrawing the troops that had massed on the Kuwaiti border, and that any proposal to ease the sanctions would have to be taken up with the Security Council in accordance with normal procedure.

Iraq "will not get something for nothing," he said after meeting with Mr. Kozyrev.

Mr. Christopher noted that the next council review of the sanctions imposed is scheduled for mid-November and said that Iraq would have to comply with all U.N. resolutions before the embargo could be lifted.

He also reiterated that the United States would be ready to strike should Iraq threaten its neighbours again.

"We are prepared to use force as necessary," he said, adding: "We believe that we

have authority under existing resolutions to take action if it became necessary."

In Baghdad, an extraordinary session of Iraq's parliament was due to convene late Monday to pass a resolution recognising Kuwait.

The Revolutionary Command Council is believed to have approved the move at a Saturday meeting and the parliament session is expected to give it a rubber stamp. Western and Middle East diplomats in the capital said.

Other than an evening announcement on radio and television telling the 250-members on recess to head for the session in Baghdad, there have been no statements about the session in the Iraqi press.

In Kuwait, Mr. Alain Juppe of France forecast "an evolution towards peace" be-

tween Iraq and Kuwait, rather than an escalation of the tensions feared by Americans.

Mr. Juppe said he came to the oil-rich emirate "to assure the authorities of Kuwait and the people of Kuwait of the complete solidarity of France."

During a brief visit, Mr. Juppe met with his counterpart Sheikh Sahab Al Ahmad Al Sabah and the emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah.

"France will not be satisfied with vague statements," Mr. Juppe said later at a news conference.

"Our position has always been very clear — Iraq must respect and strictly follow all of the Security Council resolutions," including the withdrawal of its troops from southern Iraq.

Save water ... every drop counts!

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

17:00 Alice Au Pays Des Merveilles
17:30 Un Four Tous
18:00 Embarkement Porte 1
18:30 News in French
18:45 Varieties
19:00 News in Hebrew
19:10 Nature of Things
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Leave It To Beaver
21:10 Studies of L.A.
22:00 News in English
22:30 Feature film: "The Gnome Mobile"
23:50 The Upper Hand

PRAYER TIMES

04:19 Fajr
05:36 Sunrise (Source) Doha
11:21 Dhahr
14:35 Asr
17:06 Maghrib
18:23 Isha

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Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrasanta Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Assiout Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 771331
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 625226
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 684195
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Relative cloud weather conditions will prevail with a chance of scattered showers particularly in the northern parts of the Kingdom. Skies will be partly cloudy and winds generally moderate. In Amman, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Amman 13/23
Aqaba 20 / 32
Jerusalem 11 / 25
Jordan Valley 19 / 27

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Jamil Tarif 794710
Dr. Fayez Al Dahbas 759155
Dr. Youssef Rashid 896301
Dr. Nasser Ibrahim 628293
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asena pharmacy 637055
Neirooth pharmacy 626672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shimshat pharmacy 637669
Neirooth pharmacy 626672
Najib pharmacy 847632
IRBID:
Dr. Akram Momani 248795
Alquds pharmacy (-)

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Emergency 63041
Rescue 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 617101
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896309
Public Security Department 63021
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage
Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality
Complaints Telephone 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone
Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 771111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 81381332
Khaldat Maternity, J. Amn. 642416
Al-Khaldat Maternity, J. Amn. 642416
Jabal Amman Maternity 643262
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsani 6641714
Shamsani Hospital 660131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Muasher Hospital 6672279
The Islamic, Abdali 66612757
Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646
Italian, Al-Muhajir 77101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 7751126
Army, Marks 891611715
Al-Hikma Hospital 660131
Amal Hospital 674135
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)905060
IBD:
Ibn Sina Hospital (02)275555
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)909090
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)27275
Ibn Al Nafes Hospital (02)27100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (05)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
03:10 Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
07:00 Damascus (RJ)
07:30 Dhahran (RJ)
08:15 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:15 Athens (RJ)
09:35 Muscat, Dubai (RJ)
09:50 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
16:35 Cairo (RJ)
16:50 Frankfurt (RJ)
17:40 Chicago, Amsterdam (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

04:28 Vienna (OS)

HJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman 8:00 a.m. every Monday
Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday
Dep. Damascus 7:50 a.m. every Sunday
Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.
Apples 720/500
Bananas 680
Bananas (Mukammal) 620
Cabbage 1/80
Carrot 300/200
Cauliflower 300/200
Cauliflower 260/180
Cucumbers (large) 170/130
Cucumbers (small) 340/240
Eggplant 300/200
Garlic 1300/900
Honey 600/400
Grapes (Hishari) 1100/800
Lemon 270/170
Marrow (large) 170/80
Marrow (small) 320/200
Mushrooms 1100/800
Olive (green) 380/300
Olive (black) 340/260
Onion (green) 340/260
Onion (red) 340/260
Pepper (hot) 340/260
Pepper (sweet) 300/200
Potato 400/300
Spinach 280/200
Tomato 370/220
String beans 760/500



Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Monday receives visiting members of Keizai Doyukai (the Japan Association of Corporate Executives) at the Queen Alia Fund for Social Development (Petra photo)

Princess Basma briefs visiting British, Japanese teams on QAF

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Monday received John Hanson, director-general of the British Council at the headquarters of Queen Alia Fund for Social Development (QAF), according to a QAF statement (see separate story).

Mr. Hanson who was accompanied by British Ambassador to Jordan Peter Hinchcliff and the director of the British Council in Amman, was briefed on the different activities of QAF in social and economic development in Jordan.

Mr. Hanson was particularly interested in the training programmes for trainers which QAF implements through its network of over 40 community development centres and the Queen Zein Al Sharaaf Complex for Development, said the statement.

The training of grassroots development workers from governmental and non-governmental institutions is one of the aspects of QAF's efforts to offer awareness and skills to all sectors of society, it said.

Discussion between the Princess and the British officials focused on the cooperation between QAF and the British government and the exchange of information and expertise between QAF and U.K. organisations, according to QAF.

Also Monday, Princess Basma received members of the Committee on the Middle East-Japan Relations of Keizai Doyukai, the Japan Association of Corporate Executives, who are here on a working visit.

The Committee on Middle

East-Japan Relations was established in 1987. The group's visit to Jordan is part of a tour of the region during which its members hope to improve relations between Japan and the Middle East and gain insight and knowledge about the current economic and social situations in the area.

After being briefed about the activities of QAF, the delegation expressed its admiration of Jordan's development efforts and the work of QAF, said a fund spokesperson.

The Japanese business persons expressed their willingness to increase the cooperation between the two organisations in light of increased relations between Japan and Jordan and the coming "Jordan Week" in Japan, said the spokesperson.

British Council to expand, not cut local, regional role — visiting chief

Special to the Jordan Times — AMMAN — Contrary to rumours that the British Council in Jordan may suffer because of budget cuts and lack of funding, the long-time establishment in Amman is well-situated to play an increased role in regional and local development, said John Hanson, director of the British Council.

Mr. Hanson is making a three-day visit to the Kingdom this week, meeting with ministers and key department heads in the ministries of Planning, Education, and Higher Education to re-establish the role of the council in Jordan and the rest of the Middle East.

And, he said, "we want to see how Jordan sees its own future — what does it need to keep pace with all the changes here."

The council worldwide has seen a redistribution of funds, Mr. Hanson told the Jordan Times, but financially "we are not in any different position than we were a few years ago."

"We are now involved in a push in Eastern Europe," he

said, "but it is not and will not affect our work here."

Much to the contrary, the council has plans to expand its activities in the Middle East; in particular, Jordan, the occupied territories and Lebanon.

The council, established in Jordan since 1948, not only promotes cultural relations and exchange between the countries, but also acts as a development implementation institution. Progress towards peace in the region gives the council ample opportunity to expand its activities in this capacity, Mr. Hanson said.

"The thing that is strengthening our role in Amman is the new confidence with the peace process," he told the Jordan Times. "Everyone expects an increase in Jordan's international role and therefore there will be an increase in our role as a development agency as well."

Regional peace, he said, hopefully means sufficient mobility to use the British Council in Amman as a regional council. In Jordan itself, the council's services will increase, too.

"We do infrastructure development training now, but that will become more diversified. Our range of professional services and management and skills training will also grow," he said.

And, Jordan's "change of pace" in development means that a second centre is not far in the offing, most likely in Zarqa or Irbid.

During his visit to the Middle East, Mr. Hanson also visited the three councils in the occupied territories that are currently reorganising to coordinate their activities with the Palestine National Authority (PNA).

Previously all work in the territories was done via coordination with individual institutions and non-governmental organisations.

He did meet with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat in the Gaza Strip, but described their meeting as unfortunately "tense" due to the last week's search in the strip for the kidnapped Israeli officer.

The British Council also will be reopening its centre in Lebanon this December, he said.

Rains damage farms, disrupt water flow

Majali visits ministry to review water situation

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Water and Irrigation Saleh Irsheidat Monday said that the sudden downpour of rain in the Jordan Valley Sunday and Monday has caused extensive damage to farmlands and infrastructure and disruption of water supplies to Amman.

Speaking after a meeting with Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali at the Ministry of Water and Irrigation to discuss the water situation in the Kingdom, Dr. Irsheidat said that the floods swept away tree saplings from nurseries and alongside the roads, and caused a blockage of the King Abdullah Canal which supplies irrigation water.

The minister said he regretted that water distribution in Amman areas had to be temporarily suspended because the water in the canal was filled with mud and could have been contaminated.

He said that the ministry's teams are working around the clock to ensure the return to normal of the water supplies.

Referring to the meeting with the prime minister, Dr. Irsheidat said that discussion covered the water policy and proposals for solutions to water problems in different areas.

Also discussed was Jordan's needs of drinking, agricultural and industrial water, noting that these needs are increasing annually.

Furthermore the meeting reviewed several water programmes such as the search for fresh water sources, the situation at the Disi aquifers in the southeast of the country as well as the situation in the Kingdom's dams.

Dr. Irsheidat said the Ministry of Water and Irrigation was currently implementing measures related to water issues and was cooperating closely with international institutions to work out a policy for the management of the water sector.

He said the ministry expects a new water strategy for the country will come into force next year.



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Monday visits Minister of Water and Irrigation Saleh Irsheidat to discuss the country's water situation (Petra photo)

Meanwhile, the Department of Meteorology Monday said the Wadi Shueib and

Salt areas, west of Amman, received nearly 21 millimetres of rain, the highest

compared to other areas in the 24 hours up to Monday noon.

Cabinet forms preparatory panel for Habitat meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — The Council of Ministers Monday announced the formation of a national committee chaired by Minister of Public Works and Housing Abdul Razzaq Ensour to prepare for Jordan's participation in the U.N.-sponsored conference on Habitat due to be held in Turkey in 1996.

The committee will prepare the Kingdom's working paper on human settlements to be submitted to the coming conference and take other necessary steps for participation in the meetings, according to a government statement.

It said the committee will rely on several local sub-committees to be selected from municipalities to group representatives of the local government, the private sector, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), women's unions and others.

The sub-committees will submit ideas and provide information reflecting the actual situation and genuine issues related to habitat in Jordan and will suggest general frameworks for realistic solutions, the statement added.

According to the statement, the conference in Turkey will conduct an assessment of the activities of the U.N. Fund for Human Settlements (Habitat) over the past 20 years. The statement said that the committee which is expected to commence its meetings in three weeks time from now groups the following:

The director general of the housing and urban development department, secretaries general of the ministries of planning, municipal and rural affairs, energy and mineral resources, youth, information as well as the Aqaba Region Authority, the Water Authority, the Director of the Cities and Villages Development Bank and representative of Amman Municipality, the Housing Bank, the Association of Banks in Jordan, in addition to the Jordanian Engineers Association, the Director of the Building Research Centre at the Royal Scientific Society, the head of the Jordanian Women Federation and head of Training at the Housing Corporation.

Manufactured goods on display in Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — A three-day exhibition of Jordanian and foreign manufactured goods Monday was opened at the Amman International Motor Show Centre.

On display are samples of a wide range of hospital and hotel equipment and television sets, as well as stationery, cosmetics, garments and shoes.

Chinese, Pakistani, German and Jordanian companies are displaying the products at

the exhibition which was inaugurated by Minister of Supply Adel Qudus who deputised for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

The head of a Chinese team at the exhibition centre told Jordan Television (JTV) that Jordan's market was expected to flourish as a result of peace in the region, and the Kingdom would serve as a venue for goods being transported to the West Bank.

'Technical hitch' prevents live coverage of peace agreement initialling — JTV

AMMAN (J.T.) — As his Majesty King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin addressed an assembly of officials and journalists with the historic news of the initialling of a peace treaty between the two countries, Jordanians had to switch to Israeli Television (ITV) for live coverage of the event.

Jordan Television and Radio said that belated coverage was simply due to a technical hitch.

"We were ready to transmit five minutes after the beginning of the press conference, but then due to a hitch in the microwave link it was no longer possible," said television director Nasser Judeh.

"The whole event was recorded and then as soon as we were able to go on air we did. We showed the whole event 15 minutes after it had finished," Mr. Judeh added.

On account of the original lack of coverage by JTV, Jordanian watchers of Israeli Television heard the oaths (without live pictures) in either English or Hebrew with soatches of Arabic spoken between the King and Arabic-speaking journalists being dubbed in Hebrew.

Eventually, the initialling of a draft peace treaty by prime ministers Abdul Salam Majali and Rabin, described by King Hussein and Mr. Rabin as "unique", was broadcast in its entirety. As far as radio was concerned, Arabic and English broadcasts began transmission half-way through the press conference and initialling of the agreement. Mr. Judeh noted in refuting claims (made also in the Syrian media) that Israeli Television carried Monday's ceremony live but Jordanian electronic media did not despite previously announced plans to do so.

Jordan Television staffers said they had "technical problems" because the ceremony was postponed for nearly three hours.

Syria announced the Jordanian-Israeli initialling in a straightforward account on the state-run Syrian Arab News Agency.

Democratic reforms can stimulate private sector, broaden political participation — visiting professor

By Martina Sabra
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Economic liberalisation and privatisation do not necessarily lead to greater political freedom — but democratic reforms are very likely to stimulate the private sector and thus lead to broader political participation in some Arab countries, German political scientist Volker Perthes concluded Sunday at a seminar here about "social and political structures in the orient and occident."

Held by the University of Amman in collaboration with the Goethe Institut the seminar also brought panelists Arnold Hottiger, a Swiss

journalist, and political scientist Mohammad Khair Mustafa of the University of Jordan to lecture on specific areas.

In his presentation on the socio-economic and political changes in selected Arab countries, Dr. Perthes, who is a staff member of Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik of Germany, compared the economic and political reforms undertaken in Egypt, Tunisia, Jordan, Syria and Iraq during the past 10 years.

"The most far-reaching democratisation process has been taking place in Jordan, although the economy is still mainly state-run," said Dr. Perthes.

Interestingly enough, it has been Iraq and Sudan who

have implemented the most far-reaching privatisation programmes during the last years.

According to Dr. Perthes, economic and political changes in the above-mentioned countries have been mainly a result of external and economic factors, rather than of changes of ideology. The necessity of political reform and democratisation has mostly been urged by intellectuals and members of the upper middle class, he said.

Yet, political reforms during the last 10 years, according to Dr. Perthes predominantly have been a reaction to popular unrest and upheavals, as was the case in

Jordan in 1989.

"Most of the regimes in question are still not really interested in promoting wider political participation, but (they) attempt to integrate economically powerful groups of society," he added.

Dr. Perthes said that in spite of temporary aid inflows resulting from the peace process, all five countries in the long run will have to cope with increased economic hardship, given the new international political constellation, with less foreign aid inflows and less strategic importance of the Arab countries.

"Facing the economic crisis, Arab regimes will have to choose between democratic

reforms and the risk of civil wars," he said, adding that "an expansion of democracy will have to integrate the intellectuals, i.e. Islamic movements as well."

Asked about the antidemocratic attitude of some of the Islamic movements, Dr. Perthes, referring to the German experience after World War II, when democracy in Germany had to be built up from scratch, contested: "You don't always need democrats to establish democracy. Institutions can also play an important role in building a democratic political culture, because they teach people the rules of the political game."

WHAT'S GOING ON

SPANISH CULTURAL WEEK

★ "Vicente Amigo" — Modern Flamenco Jazz Concert at the Royal Cultural Centre at 7:30 p.m. (all proceeds to go to benefit Noor Al Hussein Foundation).

EXHIBITIONS

★ Exhibition of art by Samsa' Hindi entitled "Leaves" at Orfali Art Gallery (Tel. 826932).

★ Exhibition entitled "Spanish Modern Engraving and Multiplied Sculpture" at the Jordan National Gallery, Jabal Luweibdeh (Tel. 630128).

★ The First Computer Art Exhibition in the Arab World at Ain Art Gallery, Wadi Saqra Street (Tel. 644451).

★ Exhibition by several Iraqi artists at Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art, Wadi Tal Street (Tel. 695291).

★ Exhibition of abstract art by Maha Sa'id Muhaisen at the Royal Cultural Centre.

★ Ceramics exhibition by Iraqi artist Salam Nouri at Alla Art Gallery (Tel. 639350).

★ Exhibition of applied art (flowers, painting on cloths, mirrors and pottery) by Fathiya Al Asi at the University of Jordan.

Spanish Cultural Week

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Her Majesty Queen Noor

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Balladur tries to restore authority

PARIS (AFP) — French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur was to try to restore his authority this week over a government team split by rivalry for the presidency and shaken by graft scandals.

Mr. Balladur was to call together government ministers and leaders of the ruling coalition Tuesday and launch an "appeal for calm," said Budget Minister Nicolas Sarkozy, a Balladur supporter, admitting there was a "disorderly spectacle" within the coalition.

But bickering continued Monday between supporters of Mr. Balladur in presidential elections due next April and May and Gaullist leader Jacques Chirac, leader of the Rally For the Republic (RPR).

And Mr. Balladur, also a Gaullist, came under immediate criticism for ruling out a broader government reshuffle when Sunday he replaced Industry Minister Gerard Longuet.

Mr. Longuet resigned last Friday amid allegations of corruption and illegal financing of his conservative Republican Party (PR).

The PR secretary-general, Jose Rossi, was named to take over the three portfolios

held by Mr. Longuet — industry, post and telecommunications, and foreign trade.

The prime minister's difficulties arose from the jailing last Thursday of former Communication Minister Alain Carignon, indicted with corruption the same day. The shock wave forced Mr. Balladur to demand Mr. Longuet's head Friday, even though he has so far not been indicted, analysts said.

The prime minister's credibility was also hit by open bickering within his team, notably between Interior Minister Charles Pasqua, a supporter of Balladur, and Foreign Minister Alain Juppe, who backs Mr. Chirac. There has been friction between the two over Algerian policy and over Pasqua's unwillingness to provide a visa for exiled Bangladeshi writer Taslima Nasreen, who has received death threats from Islamic fundamentalists.

On Friday Mr. Pasqua criticised Mr. Juppe for openly joining Mr. Chirac's campaign while the foreign minister called Mr. Pasqua's call for U.S.-style primaries to choose the best-placed candidate "an obsolete idea."

On Monday, pro-Chirac

MP Eric Raoult complained "we were expecting a reshuffle, we got a little replacement" and called Mr. Balladur "a half-time minister" devoting 50 per cent of his activities to the presidential campaign.

But pro-Balladur MP Patrick Devedjian accused Mr. Chirac supporters of "laying out the red carpet for Jacques Delors," the outgoing European Commission president and favourite as Socialist candidate.

"Once upon a time we stupidly imagined there could be two RPR candidates. Today, I hope that everyone has understood that this was an aberration, suicidal. It is the best way to get Delors elected," Mr. Devedjian said.

Recent opinion polls, influenced by corruption scandals, have shown Mr. Delors's star rising in the presidential stakes and running neck-and-neck with the premier. Mr. Chirac remains well behind Mr. Balladur in the polls.

Socialist Party spokesman Jean Glavany said Monday that Mr. Balladur was a prisoner of his own election alliance with the PR and had merely swapped its president, Mr. Longuet, for Secretary-

General Rossi. The PR, a major component of the ruling coalition, is backing Mr. Balladur for the presidency.

The centre-left daily Liberation said Mr. Balladur's decision not to go for a reshuffle showed he had taken the measure of the anti-corruption "revolution" being carried out by the judiciary.

Four other Balladur ministers are caught in the nets of leading examining magistrates.

Defence Minister Francois Leotard and Enterprises and Economic Development and Trade Minister Alain Madelin, also top members of the PR, are being probed over the party's financing.

And two Gaullists, Development Aid Minister Michel Roussin and Sports Minister Michele Alliot Marie, are being investigated over illegal financing of the RPR.

For Mr. Balladur, more ministerial disasters could prove politically devastating. On arrival in office in March 1993, he had promised to inject a new morality into public life after a series of scandals which helped bring down the socialist government.



A Japanese Self Defence Forces sailor stands at attention during the fleet review in Sagami Bay. 45 ships and 52 aircraft participated in the event during the fleet review in Sagami Bay (AFP photo)

Japanese fleet is largest in Asia

YOKOSUKA, Japan (AFP) — Quietly but confidently, Japan's Navy has grown to become the vanguard of Asia's seaborne forces, and now outguns China's warships by a long way, Western experts say.

A naval review, held Sunday to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Japanese "Self-Defence Force" (SDF), gave foreign experts and military attaches the chance of a close look at the Japanese fleet.

Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama watched from the deck of a destroyer at Yokosuka base, 50 kilometres south of Tokyo, as 50 vessels and 52 aircraft paraded over several hours, displaying impressive naval and aerial skills, including live-firing exercises.

The Japanese used the occasion to show off to foreigners for the first time their brand-new Aegis-type, Kongo-class destroyer, a 7,200-tonne vessel, bristling with sophisticated electronics, designed for surface

combat and anti-aircraft defence.

"It's true, our fleet has now a very high degree of technology," Takahiro Goto, an SDF spokesman, said. "To compare it with the Chinese fleet is difficult because we lack information on their fleet," he added.

The Japanese Navy has about 165 vessels totalling 330,000 tonnes as well as 330 aircraft. It has no capital ships in the traditional manner, such as aircraft carriers or cruisers, but has some 60 up-to-day destroyers and 15 diesel-electric submarines.

China's fleet is much larger, amounting to a million tonnes, but "almost all of it is virtually scrap metal," with only a few really modern surface vessels, a Western expert said.

Apart from Moscow's Pacific Fleet, which has become a shadow of its former self since the demise of the Soviet Union, no conventional fleet in Asia can compare with the Japanese, experts said.

Japan is continuing to add ultra-modern vessels to its

fleet. Another 7,400-tonne Aegis-type destroyer has already been launched and is in the process of being armed. Two more are under construction and naval authorities are hoping to build another four.

If Japan decides to join President Bill Clinton's proposed Theatre Missile Defence (TMD) programme — a global anti-ballistic missile system — the United States is eager to integrate the Aegis destroyers into the network, a Western diplomat said.

Japan, which banned the military use of nuclear power after World War II, does not have nuclear submarines (as do Russia and China) or aircraft carriers, which are considered an offensive weapon.

But a 8,900-tonne hovercraft-type ship, the Landing Craft Air Cushion (LCAC), is currently under construction. With ocean-going capabilities, it could easily be converted to an aircraft carrier for Harrier jump jets, Western experts believe.

China, U.S. agree on defence conversion

BEIJING (R) — China and the United States agreed Monday to work together to heat swords into ploughshares, signing a pact to cooperate in converting defence industries to civilian production.

One of the first moves will be to try to remould China's military-run air traffic control system into a civilian network in the hope of improving the country's had safety record, U.S. officials said.

The agreement, signed by visiting U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry and Minister Ding Hengqiao of China's Commission on Science Technology and Industry for National Defence, will ease contacts between industries of the two countries and promote partnerships and joint investments.

"Many defence companies are involved in converting to production for peaceful purposes," Mr. Perry and Mr. Ding said in a joint statement. "We need to do all we can to promote this when possible."

U.S. officials who briefed reporters said the two coun-

tries would also work together on the possible eventual production of electric-powered cars in China.

On the second day of a busy four-day visit to break new ground in military cooperation, Mr. Perry had breakfast with Foreign Minister Qian Qichen and held talks with Defence Minister Chi Haodan.

The U.S. agenda includes pressing China to improve its record on human rights, end nuclear weapons tests and halt the spread of its missile technology.

Washington also hopes the People's Liberation Army (PLA) may influence North Korea to end its suspected nuclear arms ambitions and convert its reactors purely to commercial use.

The Beijing meetings, including scheduled talks with First Vice Chairman Liu Huaqing of the Communist Party's Central Military Commission, followed a hitch in Geneva talks between U.S. and North Korean negotiators on the nuclear issue.

Mr. Perry, greeted with military pomp and an elaborate banquet in the Great Hall of the People Sunday, is the first U.S. defence chief to visit since 1989, when Washington froze a wide range of military ties after Beijing used the PLA to crush pro-democracy demonstrations with heavy loss of life.

"The visit marks the resumption of high-level contacts between the two countries' defence ministries," Xinhua News Agency quoted China's Chi as saying.

"Generally speaking, we are satisfied with the outcome of the talks. Both sides have shown a positive attitude for the restoration and development of relations between the two armies."

A Chinese Defence Ministry official told the news agency the talks had proceeded in an "earnest, frank and friendly atmosphere."

U.S. officials said Mr. Perry had been frank about human rights and pointed out that China's record on rights was tied closely to any progress on military cooperation.

Over 160 feared dead in Bangladesh ferry sinking

DHAKA (R) — Police and fishermen battling turbulent seas in the Bay of Bengal reported Monday they had found 75 bodies from a sunken ferry carrying a wedding party and said more than 90 others were also feared drowned.

The body counts have gone up both in respect of dead and missing, an official at Maheshkhali Island said as he discussed search operations after Bangladesh's second ferry disaster in two months.

"Now we know the ferry was carrying at least 216 people and only about 50 managed to reach the shore," he told reporters.

"It is feared that the death toll from the sinking will be more than 160," said Baharul Alam Bahar, a journalist who was on the ferry but was saved.

"I slipped deep into the water and then resurfaced. Only a miracle saved me," Zinnat Rehana Dolly, a 19-year-old girl, told a reporter.

Police earlier said 65 bodies, mostly of women and children, had been found, but at least 40 passengers were still missing.

They said about 55 people, out of 165 initially reported aboard, reached the shore after the accident Sunday.

Defeat in Athens embarrasses premier

ATHENS (R) — Greece's former European Affairs Minister Theodoros Pangalos suffered a heavy defeat in the first-round race for Athens mayor, embarrassing Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu who hand-picked the fiery Socialist.

The ruling Socialists flexed their muscles in the Greek countryside, scoring particularly well where they ran joint candidates with other leftist parties.

But their performance was tarnished by their showing in the two main cities, where almost half the Greek population live, with an outright loss in Salonika and likely defeat in Athens next Sunday.

Mr. Pangalos, who earned an international reputation for his blunt speaking as European affairs minister, invited liberal candidates in the race for the capital to support him in the second round of the election.

But computer predictions gave him only 44 to 46 per

cent in next Sunday's poll, compared to 54-56 per cent for his opponent from the conservative New Democracy Party.

With 72 per cent of the votes counted from the first round, Mr. Pangalos secured only 32.5 per cent compared to 44 per cent by conservative candidate Dimitris Avramopoulos, a former career diplomat regarded as a lightweight before the elections.

The unexpectedly large difference between Mr. Pangalos and Mr. Avramopoulos could be attributed to tactical mistakes as well as the acidity of (Pangalos') attacks against his opponent," said the liberal daily Ta Nea in its main editorial.

Mr. Pangalos described Mr. Avramopoulos last week as an "unemployed zero."

Conservative opposition leader Miltiades Evert, whose party has suffered from internal feuds since it was voted out of power last October, appeared delighted with the results from the first

round. He said the Socialists would be forced into early elections next April when parliament must elect a new Greek president.

"I believe New Democracy is now the first party in the country," he said.

The pro-government paper carried the banner headline "Double blow in Athens: Pangalos loses, chaos at voting centres." It said a fiasco at scores of Athens voting stations also hurt the Socialist candidate.

Hundreds of outraged voters called local radio stations to complain when more than 300 polling sites, over a quarter of the capital's total, opened very late or not at all because officials failed to show or ballot boxes were missing.

Interior Minister Costas Skandalides, who offered to resign over the chaos, was forced to postpone the first round vote in 68 polling centres in Athens and 15 in Piraeus until Wednesday.

Botswana's ruling party wins elections

GABORONE (R) — President Ketumile Masire's ruling party won Botswana's seventh elections since independence Monday, but with a reduced majority.

With six seats still to be announced, Chief Justice Moleleki Mokama declared the ruling Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) the winner with 23 seats compared to 10 won by the opposition

Botswana National Front (BNF).

The last constituency in the 40-seat parliament, enlarged from a previous 34-member assembly, will be fought later this month following the death two weeks ago of its incumbent MP.

The BNF, which held three seats in the last assembly, said it planned to seek a government of national uni-

ty. "That is the only way we will be able to solve the problems of this country," BNF leader Kenneth Koma told reporters before the BDP was declared the winner.

Mr. Masire's BDP has ruled the diamond-rich country, Africa's most stable democracy, since independence from Britain in 1966.

Finnish yes to EU membership boosts campaigns in Norway and Sweden

HELSINKI (AFP) — Finland's "yes" vote to European Union membership makes a similar approval vote more likely in neighbouring Norway and Sweden, political analysts said here Monday.

Finland came out 57-43 per cent in a referendum Sunday in favour of joining the union, following the lead set in June by electors in Austria who voted to join up to the union on Jan. 1 next year.

Sweden and Norway have still to vote Nov. 13 and 28 respectively, and the governments in Stockholm and Oslo hope that the Finnish "yes" will encourage voters to support accession.

The Oslo government, whose people are considered the least favourable to EU membership, deliberately timed their referendum to come last in the line of Austria, Finland, Sweden and Norway to try to maximise the impact of votes elsewhere on Norwegian voters.

Most analysts here Monday said the Finnish result would tip the balance in favour of EU membership by persuading the voters that their country would be left behind by the other Nordic countries if they voted against.

Swedish Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson said Sunday the Finnish vote was "a good result for Sweden and a good result for Europe."

of Norwegians said they were against the union, 35 per cent in favour and 20 per cent undecided.

The same poll showed however that 46 per cent would vote "yes" if both Finland and Sweden said "yes". Norway rejected membership in a 1972 referendum.

Meanwhile in Copenhagen, Danish Prime Minister Poul Nyrup Rasmussen said Monday that, as prime minister of the only Nordic country currently in the union, he welcomed "with joy the arrival of Finland in the European family."

Mr. Rasmussen said in a statement that he was "convinced that the 'yes' in the Oct. 16 referendum will benefit the economy and employment in that country."

It was also "an important political signal to the north and the rest of Europe and will contribute to the creation of a stronger base from which to tackle the challenges facing our part of the world," he said.

The Finnish parliament has still to ratify the popular vote by a two-thirds majority though commentators said that that was considered a formality.

Already, 150 of parliament's 200 members have said they will ratify the vote, although no date has been set yet for the parliamentary session needed to vote the treaty through.

Prime Minister Esko Aho said Sunday that the referendum result, with a 43 per cent opposition, must not be allowed to split the country. Support was strongest in

southern Finland, in the few but heavily populated cities. In Helsinki and surrounding areas, over 73 per cent voted for membership, while the rest of the country, mostly agricultural areas, voted against.

Finnish President Martti Ahtisaari is expected Monday to name current Finnish ambassador to the European Union, Erkki Liikanen, as Finland's nominee as an EU commissioner.

The majority of Finns who voted "yes" voted primarily for increased security from neighbouring Russia. Summing up a sense of relief at the vote, a cartoon in the Iltasanomat daily Monday showed a Russian bear watching sadly as an EU rival ran off with his Finnish girlfriend.

European Commission President Jacques Delors welcomed Sunday Finland's vote in favour of European Union (EU) membership, but warned of teething troubles ahead for the expanded organisation.

In a statement to Nordic journalists, Mr. Delors stressed that the Finnish electorate's choice to join the EU "was not an easy thing" to have done.

"I did not expect such a large vote," as the 57 per cent who cast ballots in favour of membership, he added. "The Finns who voted against will not have a different passport from those who voted in favour and from other Europeans."

He predicted that Sweden, Norway and Austria would now also vote in favour.

Charles' disclosure throws monarchy into crisis

LONDON (R) — Prince Philip's complaint that he was pushed into a loveless marriage by a bullying father has strained relations in the royal family and pushed the monarchy into its gravest crisis since Edward VIII's 1936 abdication.

His estranged wife, Princess Diana, was reported devastated by the disclosure that he never loved her. His father delivered an implied rebuke, suggesting other members of the family believed in courtly silence.

But his mother, Queen Elizabeth, on an historic visit to Russia Monday, denied media reports that she was extremely angry about an authorised biography serialised in a Sunday newspaper.

"Numb is the word to describe Diana's feelings... she can hardly believe what her husband has done to her," a friend was quoted as saying. The disapproval of the prince's father, Prince Philip — portrayed as a cold and domineering figure — was apparent in his terse comments about the latest chapter in the House of Windsor soap opera.

"I've never discussed private matters and I don't think the queen has either. Very few members of the family have," he told the Daily Telegraph Monday.

Instead the duke emphasised the qualities of the 1,000-year-old monarchy and suggested it would withstand the latest slanging match between his eldest son and daughter-in-law.

Whatever its shortcomings, he said the royal family had

not been self-serving. Prince Philip said his family were not fighting a rear-guard action to save their huge wealth and influence.

"There may be a lot of things that we've done wrong, but there's never been any corruption scandals. Whichever way we've done it, everything that's been done has been done for the benefit of the country. It's not for our benefit," he said.

Commentators agree the uproar is shaping up into the biggest royal crisis since King Edward VIII shocked his family and the public, abdicating in December 1936 to wed the twice-divorced American Mrs. Wallis Simpson.

The constitutional crisis launched his unwilling younger brother George VI — the present queen's father — onto the throne.

Prince Charles, Queen Elizabeth's heir, told author Jonathan Dingley in The Prince Of Wales: A Biography that he felt pushed into his marriage to Princess Diana by the duke, who virtually ordered him to propose or end the relationship.

Despite the uproar, Prince Charles said he did not regret cooperating on the book which he considered balanced and well-researched, a spokesman at his private office said.

The book portrays the union, consummated after a fairy-tale wedding in 1981, as a charade and Princess Diana as a shallow woman prone to depression, eating disorders and driven to attempt suicide.

She was also said to be consumed with jealousy, believing Prince Charles was still seeing his old flame Camilla Parker-Bowles. Prince Charles has publicly admitted committing adultery when, he said, his marriage broke down irretrievably.

Prince Charles describes how he felt like an outsider within his own family, with his mother occupied with state affairs and his father favouring his outgoing younger sister, Princess Anne.

Many royal watchers view the book as an attempt by Prince Charles to set the record straight after Princess Diana collaborated with Andrew Morton on his 1992 book Diana — Her Own True Story.

Mr. Morton plans to publish a sequel on Diana in November. On Monday, Princess Diana went to her gymnasium to work out as usual, but avoided the press waiting for her outside.

But the move may have backfired, Prince Charles has damaged his, and the monarchy's reputation and raised doubts among his subjects about his suitability to rule after such startling, intimate disclosures.

"Obviously there is a mood of tremendous tension and considerable anger and dismay about this whole issue," Max Hastings, editor of the pro-establishment Daily Telegraph, said.

"Monarchy has always got to be about dignity and beauty, it seems to me, and I'm not really sure that dignity is

compatible with indulging in a slanging match on this scale in public with one's wife," he told BBC Radio.

But at least one close friend of Prince Charles defended the book and the prince's motives, saying he had no alternative.

"I must say I've heard some right wallies (idiots) on the radio and television over the last couple of days saying the royal family shouldn't be doing this," environmentalist Jonathan Porritt said.

"They should be preserving the mystique, keeping quiet, not letting people know. What century do they think they're living in?"

As Prince Charles and Princess Diana publicly trade insults over their collapsed marriage, it is their young sons who could end up the biggest victims.

After Prince Charles spoke of a loveless marriage and a bullying father in a frank biography, the tabloid Sun asked the future king: "Why put your sons at risk by washing dirty linen?"

Psychologists argue Prince William, 12, and Prince Harry, 10, have become pawns in a battle of wits between a future king and his embittered consort. They could be forever scarred by the feud conducted before the fascinated gaze of the world's press.

Princess Diana's step-grandmother, the romantic novelist Barbara Cartland, summed up the feelings of many Britons appalled by the latest bizarre twist in the royal soap opera.

Sheep do it the old way in Madrid

MADRID (AFP) — A flock of 2,000 sheep ambled through the centre of Madrid along a route used by herdsmen in ancient times for the seasonal movement of livestock between northern and southern Spain. The flock led by shepherd Jesus Garzon passed through the normally busy Puerta Del Sol and the Cibeles and Alcala Squares at the heart of the old city watched by thousands of Madrid residents. The sheep were on their way to Badajoz in southwestern Spain after spending three months in the mountains of the Leon region. They set off on Sept. 22 from Prioro. Sunday's initiative was a reminder that Madrid began its existence as a stopping place for herdsmen.

Indonesian killer elephant is still at large

JAKARTA (R) — Indonesian officials in Sumatra have sent a special team into the jungle to hunt for a wild elephant called "Crest" which has killed 13 people since 1986, the Antara News Agency said Monday. Hasbi Busroni from Lampung province's Forestry Department was quoted as saying a 17-member team and three trained elephants had been hunting for Crest since last Thursday. Mr. Busroni said four elephants from a herd led by Crest had already been caught. Crest has reportedly trampled his victims to death, all in the northern part of the province. Officials have shot Crest three times with tranquilisers, but each time he has escaped. "He is strongly resistant to tranquilisers," Mr. Busroni said. It was not clear what the authorities plan to do with Crest if they catch him. Sumatra is home to about 4,000 elephants.

Fashion guru offers tips for Simpson trial

LOS ANGELES (R) — Lead prosecutor Marcia Clark should lengthen her skirts. Murder suspect O.J. Simpson should stay away from bright colours, especially red. And Judge Lance Ito should stick to black. These are a few fashion tips offered by Mr. Blackwell — creator of Hollywood's annual "ten worst dressed" list — to the participants in what has been billed as the murder trial of the century. "This has become a show," the self-appointed fashion arbiter said of the sensational case against the former football great, which is now inching its way through the jury selection process. Simpson is accused of the brutal double murder of his ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend Ron Goldman on June 12. He has pleaded not guilty. The football pro-turned-TV pitchman has amassed an impressive defence team, headed by one of Hollywood's most prestigious attorneys, Robert Shapiro. The prosecutors are led by Mr. Clark, a deputy district attorney known for her tough and tenacious approach. With jury selection underway, Mr. Blackwell — who has skewered the rich and famous for more than three decades with his list of fashion offenders — said it would be improper to discuss the trial's "fashions." But, he added, there are ways participants could set the right "emotional tone."

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Bridal extravaganza angers prelate

CASERTA, Italy (AFP) — A wealthy Italian woman stopped the traffic and infuriated her local bishop when she was towed to her church wedding Saturday in an extravagant gown weighing 21½ kilograms, press reports said Sunday. Maria Rosaria Lembo who spent 20 million lira (\$13,000) on her wedding dress had to be carried to the church on a special float pulled by a jeep. Road traffic was brought to a standstill as the bridal procession crossed Caserta in southern Italy. The bride's skirt was 13 metres wide and it took 11 bridesmaids to carry the huge train up the aisle. The Bishop of Caserta Msgr. Raffaele

Seoul: Kim Jong-Il's power succession imminent

SEOUL (R) — Communist North Korea is expected formally to install Kim Jong-Il, political heir of late "great leader" Kim Il-Sung, as its Communist Party chief this week, South Korean officials said Monday.

"A period of prolonged mourning is now over in the North and Kim Jong-Il will soon formally take over the mantle of his father," a Unification Ministry spokesman said.

He said a meeting of the Ruling Workers' Party was expected to be convened this week to elect Kim Jong-Il as party general secretary.

"I can't confirm the meeting will be held today or tomorrow, but there are signs that the meeting will be held by the end of this week," he said.

He did not elaborate, but Yonhap news agency quoted a diplomatic source as saying all members of the party's Central Committee had been instructed to stand by in Pyongyang this week.

He said Kim Jong-Il's election to the state presidency, the other key leadership post his father held, was expected to come later.

"A meeting of the Supreme People's Assembly should be held to elect a president. But there are no indications the meeting will take place in the near future," he said.

Kim Il-Sung, who was North Korea's undisputed master for 49 years, died of a heart attack on July 8. He had designated his pudgey, bespectacled son back in the 1970s as his political heir in the obsessively secretive Stalinist state.

Ever since the president's sudden death, the strictly controlled Pyongyang press has treated Kim Jong-Il as the nation's leader.



North Korea's successor-designate Kim Jong-Il attends a memorial service in Pyongyang to mark 100 days since the death of his father Kim Il-Sung. It was his first appearance in the public since he dropped from public view after the funeral service for the late leader (AFP photo)

Kim Jong-Il made his first public appearance in nearly three months Sunday at a mass memorial service for his late father, ending doubts about his power in the North. State-run television showed Mr. Kim, 52, gazing out at tens of thousands of citizens and soldiers packing the Pyongyang Square for a service held to mark the end of the 100-day Confucian mourning period for Kim Il-Sung.

On the red-covered rostrum, he was flanked by Defence Minister O Jin-U and Premier Kang Song-San, the number two and three in North Korea's hierarchy, and other government, party and military leaders.

Mr. Kim had not appeared in public since funeral rites for his father in Pyongyang on July 20, raising speculation he might be ill or facing internal rivals.

Park Kwang-Woo, an

analyst at the Unification Ministry, said Sunday's public appearance of Kim Jong-Il proved that communism's first dynastic succession was now firmly in place.

Mr. Park said Kim Jong-Il looked much healthier than on the last occasion he was publicly seen.

"Kim's appearance at the memorial service means there is no doubt that he will shortly assume his father's titles. Now, we are just awaiting the timing of an announcement that he is the head of state and party chief," Mr. Park said.

South Korean Unification Minister Lee Long-Koo said Monday he wanted Kim Jong-Il's regime in the North to remain stable.

"I hope the Kim Jong-Il system will lead to an era of reconciliation and cooperation between the South and North," he told a seminar.

It remained to be seen how

the younger Kim would steer the reclusive Stalinist state, hit hard by an ailing economy and confrontation with the West.

In the latest row with Washington, senior officials from North Korea and the United States met again in Geneva Sunday to try to clear away obstacles blocking a compromise pact over its suspected nuclear arms programme, but U.S. officials said no progress was made.

North Korean watchers in Seoul say the North badly needs massive foreign investment and technological expertise for an economic recovery.

"But Kim Jong-Il is not likely to pursue radical introduction of an open-door policy because it fears the legitimacy of his regime will be undermined due to an inflow of new ideas," Kim Chang-Soon, head of the Institute of North Korean Studies said.

U.N. rules out force against Muslims in Sarajevo DMZ

SARAJEVO (R) — U.N. peacekeepers Monday ruled out the use of force to dislodge 500 Bosnian government troops from the Sarajevo demilitarised zone (DMZ) at the demand of the Bosnian Serb Army (BSA).

Commanders of the BSA threatened to attack the Muslim-led Bosnian units unless the U.N. persuaded them to leave the slopes of the Mount Igman sector of the DMZ by Thursday.

The ultimatum and possibility of renewed fighting around the besieged Bosnian capital inflicted more disruption on the U.N.'s limping efforts to provide aid to the city, and Muslim enclaves trapped in Serb territory.

Kim Spicer of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) said peacekeepers did not plan a repetition of their attempts to flush Muslim soldiers off Igman earlier this month when they were forced out of their bunkers at gunpoint.

"We are not configured for the sort of military action that would be required to eject a sizable body of government forces that are in defensive positions and prepared to fight. That is not our mission," he added.

The Bosnian government army has two brigades in the DMZ. The commander of one has agreed to withdraw but the other has refused.

About 650 soldiers have already left the area where the U.N. destroyed their vacated fortifications.

Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Rose, the U.N. com-

mander in Bosnia, is anxious to avoid a confrontation with Bosnian Serbs who control 70 per cent of Bosnia and on Sunday he protested to the government about the slow response.

He was told the army command had trouble passing orders down the chain of command to the units involved, the staple excuse given by all three sides in the conflict when they want to break promises to the U.N.

The BSA demanded the zone's clearance after accusing Muslim commandos of using it to cover an attack on a Serb command post in which 20 soldiers and female nurses were killed.

Col. Spicer said heavy Serb shelling around Mostar, which has disrupted aid traffic on the main road from the Adriatic to Sarajevo, was continuing.

Fighting for high ground north of Sarajevo at Cernik and Planina near Breza appeared to have abated although U.N. military observers said in an unconfirmed report that 52 wounded Bosnian government soldiers were admitted to hospital Sunday.

U.N. and BSA reports indicated government troops recaptured some territory lost to Serbs. BSA sources said the Serbs lost 10 dead and more than 40 wounded in the latest fighting.

French Foreign Minister Alain Juppé, in an interview published Monday, proposed a summit between the leaders of Serbia, Croatia and Bosnia to discuss a big power peace plan lying fallow since Bos-

nian Serbs rejected it.

No invitation was envisaged for the Bosnian Serbs.

Mr. Juppé told the newspaper Le Figaro the time was ripe for a meeting of the three sides which accepted the plan dividing Bosnia in half between a Muslim-Croat federation and the Bosnian Serbs.

Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, once the Bosnian Serbs' chief ally and paymaster, has imposed a military blockade on them for rejecting the plan and been rewarded with a relaxation of U.N. sanctions against Yugoslavia.

Officials of the big power contact group — the United States, Russia, Britain, France and Germany — were due to meet in New York to review their efforts.

They are resisting demands by the Bosnian Serbs for the division of the former Yugoslav republic to be re-examined to take account of their demands for better security and a bigger share of its mineral wealth and towns.

Gennady Shikin, the Russian ambassador in Belgrade, told a Serbian radio interviewer that Moscow would urge further easing or lifting of sanctions against Yugoslavia at the meeting.

Mr. Juppé said the tripartite summit would prompt cooperation between Croatia and Serbia which have not recognised each other since fighting over the breakup of old Yugoslavia.

The two have opened representative offices in each other's capitals but recogni-

tion has been held up by the fate of the republic of Serb Krajina declared on a third of Croatian soil occupied by rebel Croatian Serbs.

"Croatia and Serbia's recognition of each other is the key to the future stability of the Balkans," Mr. Juppé said.

Meanwhile the former Yugoslav state of Montenegro's ferry link with the outside world has reopened with the first sailing out of the Montenegrin port of Bar since sanctions were imposed 28 months ago, reports said Monday.

The Yugoslav Press Agency, Tanjug, said the ferry, the Sveti Stefan, sailed from the port of Bar in Montenegro for the port of Bari in Italy overnight Sunday.

Hundreds of inhabitants of Bar gathered to watch the ferry leave port and applaud as it cast off its moorings. In the busy atmosphere, guns were fired in the air as the ferry sounded its siren, Tanjug said.

The ferry, which was carrying some 300 passengers on its first trip was expected to remain in the Italian port of Bari for several days for various formalities to be completed before making the return trip.

The reopening of the Bar-Bari route was authorised by the U.N. Security Council in its Resolution 943, suspending for an initial period of 100 days a series of international sanctions against the rump states of Yugoslavia — Serbia and Montenegro.

Queen Elizabeth arrives in Moscow

MOSCOW (AFP) — Queen Elizabeth II arrived here Monday, becoming the first British monarch to set foot on Russian soil as she began a four-day visit made possible only by the end of Communist rule.

The queen, dressed in a brown fur coat and a brown fur hat with a gold band, was greeted at Moscow's Vnukovo Airport by First Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets and Sergei Filatov, chief of staff for President Boris Yeltsin.

A team of four Sukhoi-27 fighter planes made three flyovers above the tarmac as the queen arrived, dropping a number of flares on the last passover.

The British monarch, accompanied by her husband Prince Philip, briefly greeted dignitaries and inspected a 120-man honour guard composed of soldiers from the Russian army, navy and air force.

The honour guard played the British national anthem, and the Russian national hymn.

British Foreign Secretary

Douglas Hurd followed the queen out of the plane, which had a small royal flag near the cockpit and a bright red tail bearing the Union Jack.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin greeted Queen Elizabeth Monday in a formal ceremony at the Kremlin broadcast live on Russian television.

The queen and Mr. Yeltsin approached each other along a red carpet from opposite ends of the Kremlin's ornate St. George Hall before shaking hands in the centre of the room.

The queen was accompanied by her husband, Prince Philip, while Mr. Yeltsin flanked by his wife Naina.

Meanwhile reacting to reports Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev had cancelled a meeting with British counterpart Douglas Hurd during Queen Elizabeth II's trip to Russia this week, Britain said Monday there was "no diplomatic crisis" between the two countries.

While acknowledging differences over Iraq, a spokesman said, "There is no rift with Russia... We don't con-

sider that Mr. Hurd has been

snubbed in any way."

"We knew since the middle of last week that Mr. Kozyrev was not going to be in Russia at that time," he said. "So to our point of view he has not called off any tails."

A Russian diplomat had been quoted as saying Mr. Kozyrev had cancelled talks with Mr. Hurd because he was "very disappointed" with Mr. Hurd's "extremely negative reaction" to the Russian initiative during the Gulf crisis.

Mr. Kozyrev was to discuss Iraq in New York Monday with U.S. counterpart Warren Christopher.

A Russian government spokesman said Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin will not meet her at all during her four-day visit to Russia, a government spokesman said.

The Russian premier will instead continue his vacation near the southern Russian city of Sochi, which could last for the remainder of the month, spokesman Vartan Ovsepian said.

Mr. Chernomyrdin, who rushed to Moscow at the height of the crisis, later resumed his holiday in the Black Sea resort of Sochi.

The confidence vote was brought by a centrist opposition faction, the Democratic Party of Russia. The party had not objected to the vote being put off, Mr. Isakov said.

Last Tuesday's 21.5 per cent crash in the rouble's rate

against the dollar threatened to blow up into a full political crisis after parliament, dominated by President Boris Yeltsin's opponents, called the confidence vote.

The Russian currency had recouped much of its loss in value by the end of last week after Central Bank intervention and was little changed Monday.

Mr. Yeltsin sacked acting Finance Minister Sergei Dubinin and, on Friday, accepted the resignation of Central Bank Chairman Viktor Geraschenko. The president also ordered his top advisory body to investigate the reasons for the crash.

If the government lost a confidence vote, it could bring Mr. Yeltsin once again into conflict with the legislature.

With the United Nations playing prominent roles in both Angola and Mozambique, the two events would mark rare successes for the world body after a string of failures in Africa.

South Africa's shift this year from white minority rule to a black-led government under President Nelson Mandela also has helped stabilise the region. The former apartheid government supported rightist rebels in Angola and Mozambique in its campaign against the spread of Soviet-backed socialism.

Angola's war erupted on the eve of the southern African nation's independence from Portugal in 1975 and evolved into a satellite battle of the cold war between the United States and the former Soviet Union.

U.N. announces Angolan peace accord

LUSAKA, Zambia (AP) — Angola's government and the rebels it has fought for 19 years have agreed on a peace treaty, the chief U.N. negotiator announced Monday.

The pact, worked out in almost a year of negotiations in Lusaka, Zambia, would try to end a civil war that has survived despite previous peace treaties, a national election and international pressure against the combatants.

Alioune Blondin Beye, the U.N. special representative who mediated the protracted and sometimes struggling negotiations, said the agreement covered 10 points, including a ceasefire, the withdrawal and disarming of rebel forces, and creating a new national army with fighters from both sides.

He said negotiators would now return to Angola to present the agreement to their leaders for ratification, and that a signing ceremony in Lusaka was expected in "a matter of days."

Under the treaty, a U.N. force of foreign troops would provide security while President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos' government and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) rebels carry out a power-sharing arrangement.

A joint commission, comprising members of the government, the rebels and the United Nations, would oversee implementation of the agreement.

The signing ceremony could occur near the time another war-ridden former Portuguese colony, Mozambique, holds its first multiparty election.

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Macedonian leader, coalition ahead in elections

SKOPJE (Agencies) — Macedonian President Kiro Gligorov and his ruling leftist coalition were ahead in the first round of presidential and legislative elections, according to unofficial early results of the poll published Monday.

The results, cited by local media, said Mr. Gligorov won 316,000 out of 430,000 votes Sunday compared to his rival Ljupka Georgievski who won 97,000 votes. There were 17,000 spoiled votes, according to the early results.

The Electoral Commission, by midday Monday, had not provided any information on the outcome of the vote and said only that voter turnout was at 51.14 per cent, in 98 out of 120 districts.

More than 1.3 million voters were eligible to cast their ballots in the former Yugoslav republic's first post-independence ballot for a new head of state and 120 deputies to the single-chamber legislature.

Mr. Gligorov, 77, was elected to office by parliament in 1991 and ran under the banner of the Alliance for Macedonia, a coalition of three left-wing ruling parties.

His rival, 57-year-old Georgievski, is a right-wing nationalist and theatre director from the main opposition party, the VMRO-DPMNE.

In order to win the race in the first round, Mr. Gligorov needs an outright majority, or more than 50 per cent of

the electorate.

Deputies, however, are also elected in the first round if they manage to garner an outright majority of voters, unless it represents less than a third of eligible voters in their district.

During the second round scheduled for Oct. 30, the winner will be elected by a simple majority.

A total of 1,766 candidates from 36 parties were running for 120 seats in Macedonia's parliament, where the VMRO-DPMNE garnered the largest share of the vote in the preceding 1990 elections, winning 44 seats.

The elections, called a year



An ethnic Albanian (2nd) left argues with the head of the voting commission (left) at the polling station, central Skopje during the Macedonian legislative and presidential elections.

Some 200,000 ethnic Albanians are reported by Macedonian officials to live legally in this former Yugoslav republic (AFP photo)

early after months of parliamentary stalemate, are expected to break the deadlock and produce a working majority.

Opposition parties charges Sunday that there had been widespread ballot irregularities, and said they would ask for the result to be annulled.

"Everything is chaotic and the situation with voting lists is catastrophic and totally against the law," Democratic Party leader Peter Goshev told a news conference.

"This is well-prepared state obstruction and mass abuse of the election process throughout the republic," he said.

State Election Commissioners said late Sunday that incomplete data received from 89 of 120 voting precincts showed only 41 per cent of registered voters cast ballots.

This would be 10 per cent under the minimum turnout required to elect the president.

Mr. Goshev said election invitation forms had failed to reach many of the 1.36 million eligible voters, while some others who did receive them could not cast ballots because their names were not on lists compiled for their district.

70,000 march to protest U.S. immigration measure

LOS ANGELES (R) — Nearly 70,000 people took to the streets of Los Angeles Sunday in a protest march against the controversial "save our state" measure, a California ballot proposal that would cut off most public services to illegal immigrants.

Billed as one of the largest protests ever mounted for immigrant rights, the procession of chanting and sign-waving

protesters started out in mostly Hispanic East Los Angeles and snaked along a four-mile (6.6-km) route to the steps of city hall.

Police equipped with riot gear stood by and a number of streets were cordoned off but authorities said there were no signs of serious trouble.

In the city's sprawling Mexican immigrant community, it was the largest demonstration yet of strong opposition to Proposition 187, which would bar illegal immigrants from public schools, non-emergency medical services and welfare rolls.

Only three weeks before the Nov. 8 election, the measure is favoured by 59 per cent of likely voters and opposed by 33 per cent, according to a Los Angeles

Times opinion poll.

Marching to the festive beat of Mariachi musicians, protesters accused the measure's sponsors of immigrant-bashing and worried its passage could throw more than 300,000 children out of the state's public schools.

Police put the crowd's size at about 70,000, but unofficial estimates ran as high as 100,000.

er be a substitute for a strong transatlantic link embedded in a strong alliance. It will reinforce that link, not weaken it," Mr. Claes said.

Mr. Claes paid tribute to former Secretary-General Woerner, who died in August after a long battle with cancer.

"His influence and statesmanship were decisive in steering NATO through its first, difficult stage of transformation. His place in our common history is secure," Mr. Claes said.

The former Belgian foreign minister was applauded by staff who lined the corridors of the alliance building to welcome him.

"I will do my utmost to contribute to this new chapter in NATO's evolution and to take up the torch of my distinguished predecessors in this great office," Mr. Claes said.

involved in peacekeeping since the end of the cold war. It launched a series of limited air strikes this year in response to Serb attacks in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Senior alliance officials were in New York Monday, arguing their case with United Nations Secretary-General Boutros Ghali for a tougher policy on air strikes.

"Cooperation between NATO and the U.N. has developed rapidly over the last two years. I personally intend to carry it further and make it as effective as possible," Mr. Claes said.

He said the Western European Union confirm its role as the European pillar of NATO, adding that the creation of combined joint task forces was of particular importance.

"But let me insist on one point. A European security and defence identity can nev-

Claes debuts as NATO chief; vows expansion to East

BRUSSELS (R) — Belgium's Willy Claes took over as NATO's new secretary-general Monday, saying his first goal was to widen the military alliance to Eastern Europe without isolating Russia.

Mr. Claes, who succeeds the late Manfred Woerner of Germany in the top post, said in his opening he would ensure NATO's expansion did not lead to new divisions or block cooperation with other partners.

"We recognise Russia's weight and international role. It is an indispensable partner if the alliance is to fulfil its vision of a lasting and secure order of peace in Europe," said Mr. Claes, a former Socialist minister in the Belgian government.

NATO is forging closer ties with its former cold war foes via the partnership for peace (PFP) plan launched last

January, which entails joint exercises and other military cooperation.

"First and foremost, we must work with our new partners to the East to develop a cooperative approach to security and indeed a widening of our unique security community," said Mr. Claes.

Opinion within the alliance is divided on the speed with which NATO should plan to expand to take in former Communist countries. Russia, while joining PFP, is edgy about Eastern European states joining the 16-nation alliance.

Outlining other goals for his term as NATO chief, Mr. Claes said the alliance needed further to develop its political and military instruments. It was necessary to increase practical ties with bodies such as the United Nations, he added.

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Azeri leader sacks 4 more ministers

BAKU (R) — Azerbaijan leader Heydar Aliyev has sacked four ministers, including two deputy prime ministers, in a continued purge of government upper echelons following political unrest earlier this month.

Mr. Aliyev, in a decree published Monday, dumped Asker Mamedov as vice-premier in charge of agriculture and Ali Takhmazov, vice-premier with responsibility for construction.

He also dismissed Trade Minister Rizvan Huseinov and Seirus Mustafeyev, who headed the state concern for bread products and held ministerial rank.

Mr. Aliyev, in comments made public by his office Monday, linked the sackings

to the critical state of bread supplies in Azerbaijan.

But they formed part of a purge following his

Jordan Times

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Treaty, finally, in place

THE INITIALLING yesterday of a peace treaty between Jordan and Israel was indeed an historic achievement, not only because it has established a framework in which enmity between the two countries is replaced by good neighbourliness and cooperation, but also because the agreement puts an end once and for all to a tortuous path of negotiations and speculation that has taken its toll on Jordanians, Israelis and other people. If, as Jordanian and Israeli leaders asserted yesterday, everybody emerged as a winner from accepting the terms of the treaty, then the stage should be set to open a new page in this region's history, based on friendship rather than confrontation, and on shared development instead of war and violence.

What lies ahead, though, could be just as challenging and difficult as what has happened in the past. There is no reason to think rather prematurely that the road ahead would be strewn with roses. Rather the opposite could be closer to reality. Putting flesh on the skeleton of the peace treaty could be most taxing to both sides given the years of animosity and hostility that separated our peoples for many decades. Prudence would call for careful assessment of every step of the way as we proceed to implement the various features of the regime of peace now in place. There is no justification to lay down our vigilance because our people need time and effort to adjust to the new reality. Despite the fact that we as a country are ready politically to go ahead with the implications of the impending peace treaty, there is no assurance that our people are psychologically prepared for normal ties with Israel as yet. This also means that economic and commercial transactions between the two sides have to be conducted at a measured pace. The culture of and for peace between the two countries might need more time to take root than most of us would be willing to concede. The euphoria about the prospects of peace and its eventual dividends must not blind us to the bitter truth that forging peace between peoples would need more than formal accords. We would therefore counsel a certain degree of prudence and patience.

All this means that there is a great deal of work ahead for all of us. Fanatics and extremists are there on both sides of the fence ready to strike at the first opportunity opened to them. A head on collision with hardliners may not be the most profitable way to deal with them. After all rejectionists have just as much right to their perspective as supporters of the peace process have as long as opposition is expressed in lawful and democratic ways. Both sides are called upon to show greater sensitivity to the other's point of view. Otherwise the peace between the two states would lack true depth and take a longer time to take root.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

MOHAMMAD SUBEIH, a columnist in *Al Dustour*, Monday criticised the government for what he said was its marginalisation of the role and the existence of the Jordanian political parties. Whoever a delegation representing a political group in another country visits Jordan, only government officials are allowed to meet its members, but no political party is given the chance to discuss political or other matters with the guests, said the writer. In the really democratic nations, where genuine democracy and pluralism exist, the visiting delegation is formally asked to meet with the opposition groups to learn the views of both sides concerning certain issues, said the writer. In our country, he said, the opposition is not given any importance as if the concept of opposition brings shame to the nation. Ignoring the role of the opposition or political groups in general on the part of the government does this practice help to brighten Jordan's image before the outside world, said the writer.

A COLUMNIST in *Al Ra'i* daily said that despite the Russian mediation and the American military buildup in the Gulf region, the door is still open for an Arab solution to the crisis between Iraq and Kuwait. Tareq Masarweh said that Jordan, which in 1990 called for an Arab solution to the Gulf crisis, still holds on to its stand and still calls for a settlement to the crisis within the framework of the Arab World. Indeed, it was an Arab solution in 1961 that ended the dispute between Iraq and Kuwait because Egyptian President Jamal Abdul Nasser's views, which were identical to those of His Majesty King Hussein, won the backing of the Arab governments for a pan-Arab settlement, said the writer.

The View From Fourth Circle

Bullies, hegemony, lust and masquerading politicians

By Rami G. Khouri

I WOKE up the other day, prepared a bowl of granola cereal for breakfast, turned on CNN, and almost fell off my chair when I saw Peter Arnett reporting from Baghdad. I rubbed my eyes and pinched myself to make sure I was awake and not dreaming, checked my calendar to make sure this was, in fact, the autumn of 1994 and not 1990, and then I sat back and watched the show.

There is something very important, very instructive in historical terms, about this season's rerun of the 1990 Gulf crisis, four years after the original show. Some of the names have changed, but the spectacle essentially features the same cast of soldiers, bullies, hegemonists, and professional politicians pandering to the emotions of their mass audiences, all of them driven by the same fears, grievances and lust that we saw in 1990.

The real tragedy is that with every rerun of the same old show, it is becoming increasingly difficult to determine which folks, on both sides of the confrontation lines, are driven by fear and greed, and who is, in fact, the bully, the hegemonist, and the transparent politician masquerading as national leader. What is becoming crystal clear is that the decisive show of strength and resolve in the form of American-led militarism in 1990 to liberate Kuwait was great television, but lousy history.

For me, watching the repeat drama from the United States this time, as opposed to from Jordan for the premiere showing, has been an extraordinarily valuable experience. It merely strengthens my belief that this contest is not mainly or only about a megalomaniac man in Baghdad or about protecting the sovereign rights of a small neighbouring Arab country (as the U.S. government and media would have us believe). You see, those problems were resolved in a very emphatic way in 1991. Or were they?

Yes, of course they were. The world's mightiest fighting force emphatically carried out George Bush's pledge that Saddam Hussein would "get his ass kicked". The defeated Iraqi army, the humiliated Iraqi leadership, and the semi-starved Iraqi people were not only soundly stomped on and humiliated, but their brittle, semi-sovereign, and desperate national status was assured in perpetuity by a series of U.N. resolutions on trade sanctions and systems to destroy and/or monitor Iraqi armaments and weapons development programmes. So why are we going through this again in 1994?

The problem, it would appear now, is either that President Saddam has a titanium ass, or that kicking ass as a foreign policy goal is ineffective, short-sighted, undignified, or a combination of all three. This contest, it seems, is not only about one Arab tyrant-leader, two adjacent Arab lands, and a faraway superpower. It is about something much bigger, and much older. To appreciate the true dimensions of the battle now underway in the Gulf, one would do well to pause for a moment and take a quick look around the Middle East in 1990 and in 1994.

The painful, sad fact is that the Middle East today is considerably more unstable and violent than it was four years ago, because the fundamental, underlying problems that gave rise to the 1990 crisis have not only remained unresolved, but in almost all cases have worsened. History's verdict seems more clear than ever: foreign military forces, even motivated by a Walt Disneyish morality of goodness, light, freedom, and democracy, cannot long maintain security and stability in distant continents if the local factors that cause rage, bitterness and instability remain unresolved. Indeed, foreign militarism probably worsens the local situation in the long run, and may result in — holy cow, what the bejesus! — having to send the troops back once again years later. The Middle East, in the past and today, seems anxious to teach us this lesson, but many amongst us seem hesitant to learn it.

What is the condition of the Middle East today? For starters, just this week we have seen the following: the stabbing of Egyptian Nobel Prize winner Naguib Mahfouz in Cairo and the deaths of several policemen and Islamist activists; the killing of two innocent Arab and Israeli civilians in a Jerusalem cafe by Palestinian gunmen; the abduction of an Israeli soldier by Palestinian Hamas activists and the death of two Israeli soldiers and three Hamas gunmen in the rescue attempt; Israel's breaking off the peace negotiations with the PLO; and the killing of 16 policemen and the 63rd foreign national in Algeria, coming on top of ten thousand (that's right, ten thousand) Algerian deaths due to the civil war in the last three years. The truly astounding fact is that this was, by and large, a pretty typical week in the modern Arab World.

Looking further a field in the Middle East, and comparing today with four years ago, we also see the following: Saudi Arabia is experiencing worsening internal political tensions, resulting in hundreds of arrests of domestic critics by the government last month; Kuwait has become a shell of its former self, with most wealthy Kuwaitis routinely reported to have most of their money and one foot outside the border, ready to seek safety elsewhere should their country be threatened again; the Kurds in northern Iraq

continue to fight one another, and have become perpetual wards of the United States, England, France and others who put together the 1990 Cash Register Coalition; Turkey is experiencing serious challenges from Islamists and Kurds to the Atatürkist secular nation-state, and is pushing the West to remove the trade embargo against Iraq; Somalia starved, split into two states, fractured into many feuds, and remains the world's leading synonym for chaos and failed, self-conflicting nationhood; Yemen united, split up, and united again after warring billions of dollars it did not have; a wasteful cycle of domestic violence and foreign economic dependence; Sudan is ostracised by much of the world and still suffers a debilitating domestic armed conflict; Libya is banned, forgotten and stagnating on the wreckage of its own mismanaged profligacy; Lebanon lost so much of its national authority to neighbouring Israel and Syria and to its own Lebanese tribal components that it has more or less decided to exchange sovereign statehood for the greatest exercise in free enterprise money-making ever witnessed on earth — the sale and privatisation of an entire country; Iran is characterised by increasing discontent and sporadic riots, reflecting the socio-economic failure of its theocratic state; Palestine is delicately balanced between the historic promise of national realisation and perpetual ignominy as Israel's private cheap labour pool; Syria is stuck in its autocratic Roman mode, apparently unable or unwilling to liberalise while pressures build up for a possible post-Assad free-for-all; Jordan remains almost numb before existential issues such as severe population/water imbalances and apparently chronically high unemployment and poverty rates, generating a frantic willingness to do whatever is required of it to survive; Tunisia has accepted being ruled by a few people whose party has been in power for 38 years, its most dramatic sign of life being the transition seven years ago from the autocracy of an old man to the autocracy of a younger man; Iraq has been shattered, starved and split up into semi-sovereign zones under the watchful eyes of the new mandatory powers in Washington, London and Paris; and on it goes, in a Middle East characterised by a very wide range of very serious threats and vulnerabilities.

Three points are worth pondering in view of these realities, as we watch tens of thousands of United States troops pour into the Arabian Peninsula for the second time in four years:

1) All of the problems suffered by Middle Eastern countries have worsened appreciably in the last four years; some of them (the status of the Kurds, Kuwait's insecurity, Jordan's and Turkey's economic needs, etc.) have worsened specifically because of the U.S.-led militaristic response to Iraqi aggression against Kuwait in 1991. American troops can and will certainly defeat Iraq again as they did in 1991, but this will almost certainly result in a more brittle Middle East, where not only the small, chronic basket cases states will suffer, but where strong, important, strategic American "allies" such as Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Egypt are increasingly threatened by internal political and economic destabilisation. Why are these trends so much worse in 1994 than they were in 1990? I wish Peter Arnett and his masters would try to answer that question. Holy moley, could American commercial television ever attempt something so serious?

2) When the 1990 crisis struck, the United States and other members of the Cash Register Coalition spent much time saying that after the war they would work vigorously to address four of the most important underlying causes of tension in the area: the Arab-Israeli conflict, armaments proliferation, economic disparities, and lack of democracy. The regional and international track record on these issues has been poor or nonexistent. Only the Arab-Israeli peace process has been moved ahead; but even this has been done in a manner that is so distorted towards American/Israeli positions that the humiliation caused to the Palestinians and other Arabs has itself become a source of instability, as we witnessed in and around Jerusalem last week.

3) In view of the many serious problems that plague most ordinary Arabs and threaten the future of their children, the two most important emotions that drive the sentiments of the vast majority of Arabs today are anger and defiance. The single most consistent and important historical force that generates Arab anger and defiance is the tradition of foreign armies pouring into the Middle East to conquer it, pacify it, control it, exploit it, or for some other reason related more to foreign imperial needs than to the aspirations of the indigenous people — foreign armies from Alexander the Great to Rome's General Pompey, to the Byzantine armies, to the Crusaders, to Hulagu Khan, to the Ottomans, to the Portuguese, to Napoleon, to the British, French and Italians, and, in recent years, to the United States armed forces. Most Arabs see Israel and its humiliating challenge to and subjugation of the Arabs as

part and parcel of foreign imperial intrusion.

Today as in 1990, the sight of foreign troops descending upon the Middle East in large numbers immediately triggers in most Arab minds this long and painful historical memory. The hegemonic brutality of a Saddam Hussein — or of any other Arab tyrant who kills his own or neighbouring people in the thousands — suddenly has a rival hegemonist against which he is to be measured: the foreign armies. At that stage, in Arab eyes, there is no match. The foreign hegemonist will always be feared and hated more than the local Arab hegemonist.

When ordinary Arabs see foreign armies pouring into the region — even for a noble cause of assuring some little Arab state's sovereignty — they see something much bigger and older than fair-skinned soldiers coming to do a good deed. They see ancient tormentors whose audacious imperial reach has directly subjugated our people and exploited our resources for several millennia.

Modern and ancient history both show that foreign powers have always been the main armourers, political backers and financiers of Arab autocrats, in Saddam Hussein's case as well as many others. This link between imperial powers far away and our own homegrown Arab killer-dictators is an ugly but undeniable fact of our shared history. To do away with the problem of Iraq attacking Kuwaitis, of violent men such as Saddam Hussein, one needs to address both ends of this historical equation; one has to see the full picture and the complete causes of autocratic modern Arab political culture.

Therefore, when, as happened last Friday (Oct. 14), the United States says it could decide to ignore the United Nations and use force unilaterally to remove Iraqi troops from southern Iraq, or when, as happened on Oct. 10, the United States president proclaims that "we will not allow Saddam Hussein to defy the will of the United States..." — as does one of its most disturbing consequences: The fact that in the Arab world, the masses of ordinary, largely poor people admire Iraq's anger and defiance of the United States and Great Britain & Co., while the Arab governments, establishments and power elites seem more inclined to side with the West.

The choice appears very simple, if we care to use our heads and to make good use of the commercial breaks between episodes of the Gulf war goofiness show or the increasingly short intervals of time during which Western troops are not pouring into or permanently stationed in the Gulf region: Arabs and Americans alike can decide to get off the dizzying roller coaster of recurring peaks and troughs of military and emotional confrontation, by finally addressing the root causes of Middle Eastern instability, violence, aggression, and emperor-tampering; or, we can go along with the predominant penchant in the United States, and among most Arab elites, to transform a complex, ancient battle into deceptively simple television entertainment based on the emotional imperative of kicking ass.

The trouble with the second option — as the United States and France discovered in Vietnam, and the Soviet Union in Afghanistan, and the Crusaders in Jerusalem, and many other imperial powers in many other foreign lands in many different periods of history — the trouble is that those who go around kicking ass for a vacation, or boasting that their will cannot be defied, are only setting themselves up to get their own ass kicked, and to be monumentally defied, by a force far more powerful than they or their temporal enemy — human history itself. You can bet on it. Hint: Listen to American officials these days; they spend most of their time not on checking Saddam Hussein today, but on trying to figure out how to stop having to send American troops back to the Gulf again and again in the future. Important hint, if you ask me.

These are difficult times, requiring sober, sensible approaches to vexing and potentially destructive emotions. The stakes are high and getting higher all the time: the underlying condition of the Middle Eastern "theatre" — the U.S. army got it right with that word — is deterioration.

So let's all clap and cheer along, because no other options will be permitted to Arabs or Americans in this instance. This week, this season, the American will shall not be defied. You can bet on it.

But then what? No doubt, there will be a historical cost for a big foreign hegemonist crushing a small Middle Eastern hegemonist. The best that we can hope for is that when this episode is over, when the haunting reappearance of Peter Arnett from Baghdad ceases, perhaps sensible people in the United States and the Arab World will admit that the problem is not only or even mainly Saddam Hussein, or the United States. The problem is hegemony itself, wherever and whenever it happens, whether practised by Middle Eastern or Western soldiers, bullies, hegemonists, and professional politicians pandering to the emotions of their mass audiences, all of them driven by common fears, grievances and lust.

Economic disaster called GATT

IT IS extraordinary that the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), the instrument of global free trade, could have been negotiated by successive U.S. administrations without a full public and national debate.

By contrast, the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) was the subject of substantial and reasonably well-informed debate in Congress — yet NAFTA is insignificant compared to the so-called Uruguay Round of GATT. If fully successful, GATT — and its successor, the World Trade Organisation (WTO), to be established by the Uruguay Round agreement — will ultimately create a free trade area not just with America's neighbours, Mexico and Canada, but with China, India, Vietnam, Bangladesh, indeed with the whole world. It is impossible to conceive of an international agreement with deeper social consequences. The American public cannot afford to let its collective eyes glaze over at the mention of GATT.

In no sector will the social and economic consequences be more far-reaching than in agriculture. A principal purpose of GATT is to recast the world's agriculture in the name of efficiency and increased agricultural "productivity." Modern economists, more particularly those in favour of

global free trade, claim that the best agricultural system is one that produces the maximum amount of food for the minimum price and employs the fewest people.

But even in economic terms, that calculation is incomplete. When you reduce the number of people employed on the land, those who become redundant are forced into cities. Therefore, you must add the direct cost of producing food by intensive methods to the indirect costs of those who have been uprooted. As there are insufficient non-agricultural jobs throughout the world, there will be increased unemployment, with the consequent costs of welfare. As there is insufficient urban infrastructure, such as schools, hospitals and housing, there will be a need for substantial new capital expenditure.

Yet there is a deeper price. In a stable society when, as a result of changes in technology, some jobs are lost in a particular industry, the fundamental balance of society is not altered. Some declining enterprises necessarily suffer while other, more competitive, entities emerge. But loss of rural employment and migration from the countryside to the cities causes a fundamental and

irreversible change. It has contributed to the destabilisation of rural society and to the growth of vast urban concentrations from the First World to the Third. Within these huge urban groupings resides an alienated underclass whose cultural traditions have been extinguished and whose families are dependent on public and private charity.

The cost of contributing to such social breakdown cannot be measured. As Jose Lutzenberger, the far-sighted former minister of the environment of Brazil, reminds us, known as favelas, were the direct result of the rural dislocations caused by the "green revolution" of the 1950s, which supposed to end for all time famine throughout the world.

Maximising agricultural output per person might have been an important consideration in the highly developed Western nations in which the cost of labour was great and standards of living were high. But we are entering a new world. Four billion people suddenly are joining the world economy. Until recently they had been held separate by their political systems, usually communist or socialist. They include the populations of China, India, Vietnam, Bangladesh and countries

of the ex-Soviet Union among others. Their populations are growing fast and it is forecast that they will reach 6.5 billion in 35 years.

It is estimated that there are still 3.1 billion people throughout the world living in the countryside. If GATT succeeds in imposing worldwide the sort of productivity achieved by the intensive agriculture of Canada and Australia, then it is easy to calculate that approximately 2 billion of these people will lose their livelihood. Rural communities will be uprooted and swept into urban slums. If many cannot find jobs in an expanded industrial sector, mass migrations of displaced and tragic people will follow. They will be the GATT refugees.

If global change is too vast to contemplate, consider the effects of GATT on one country. Vietnam is typical of the many nations making their first faltering steps towards joining the free world and the global economy. It has a population of 67 million, of which 78 per cent live in the countryside (compared to 14.8 per cent in Australia, a major agricultural country). The current version of GATT would drive millions of poor Vietnamese from the fields into urban slums and create deep and long-

lasting devastation.

But GATT is not only of concern to landless Third World peasants. The developed world will suffer GATT-induced stresses of its own, in addition to the need to cope with refugee movements. The principle of global free trade is that anything can be manufactured anywhere in the world to be sold anywhere else. That means that the 4 billion new entrants into the world economy will be in direct competition with the work forces of the developed countries. This massive increase in the supply of extremely cheap labour is taking place at a time when technology can be transferred instantly anywhere in the world on the back of a microchip, and capital is free to be invested worldwide wherever the anticipated yields are highest.

Some high-tech industries can survive under these circumstances because they are highly automated. For them, labour is a minor item in the overall cost of their products. But as soon as they need to increase employment, they are forced to move offshore. For example, IBM is moving its disk-drive business from America and Western Europe to low-labour-cost countries. According to the Wall

Street Journal, "IBM plans to establish this new site as a joint venture with an under-termined Asian partner and use non-IBM employees so that it will be easier... to move to an even lower-cost region when warranted..." Moving from higher-cost regions to Asia cuts in half the cost of assembly."

Supporters of global free trade argue that jobs in the service industries will replace lost employment in manufacturing. But even service industries will be subjected to substantial transfers of employment to low-cost areas. Today through satellites you can remain in constant contact with offices in distant lands. Swissair, for example, has recently transferred a significant part of its accounts department to India.

Developed countries need to begin thinking about their balances of trade in terms of employment as well as money. If we export \$1 billion of goods and import products of the same value, we now conclude that our overseas trade is in balance. But if our exports are heavily weighted towards high-tech products, while our imports are labour-intensive, we are importing unemployment — with large social costs counted in the balance.

And global trade will not only increase unemployment in the developed

(Continued on page 7)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Egypt seeks a role in Kuwait's crisis

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt, saying its leadership role in the Arab World cannot be ignored, on Monday urged a greater Arab involvement in efforts to defuse the crisis over Iraq's threat to Kuwait. Foreign Minister Amr Musa outlined Egypt's stance in advance of meetings in Cairo over the next two days by officials of Kuwait and other Gulf states to discuss Iraq's military build-up along the Kuwaiti border. "We cannot deprive Kuwait of taking whatever measures to protect its border... but there are Arab dimensions which should be respected," Mr. Musa told reporters. Asked if Kuwait was disregarding Egypt, Mr. Musa said: "The Egyptian role cannot be ignored and it will never accept that." Egypt invited foreign ministers from the Gulf states to Cairo after days of hinting such a meeting was needed and much grumbling in the state-run press about Kuwait depending only U.S. troops to protect it.

Israelis in Oman for water talks

MUSCAT (AP) — Israeli experts were among an international group that began a two-day meeting Monday to discuss establishing an international centre for water desalination. The centre was agreed in an April meeting here of the multilateral working group on water, an offshoot of the U.S.-sponsored Middle East peace process launched in Madrid in October 1991. The April meeting brought the first Israelis to the Gulf Arab states, which have thrown their weight behind the peace effort. Following that, another Israeli group attended multilateral talks on disarmament in Qatar in May.

S. Arabia, Philippines sign agreement

JEDDAH (AFP) — Saudi Arabia and the Philippines signed an economic cooperation agreement Monday in this Red Sea port, the official Saudi news agency SPA said. The accord, which also concerns trade, technical, scientific, cultural, sport and investment cooperation, was signed by the two countries' foreign ministers, the agency said. It was signed after Philippines President Fidel Ramos met earlier in the day here with Saudi King Fahd for talks focusing on economic cooperation. Saudi sources said the meeting might also have addressed talks under way between the Manila government and Muslim guerrillas in the Philippines.

UAE urges dialogue among Gulf states

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Monday urged a dialogue among regional states to resolve disputes and condemned Iraq for threatening neighbouring Kuwait. Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahayan, deputy supreme commander of the armed forces, said the UAE had sent troops to Kuwait to defend it after Iraq massed more than 80,000 troops near the border last week. "Preserving the right of people to live in peace is a basic commitment for any country," he said during a military graduation. "To guarantee this right, all states in the region should concentrate their efforts on understanding and dialogue and should renounce the use of force in their relations and resolve their disputes through peaceful means and respect of neighbours."

Lebanon seeks Romanian help to rebuild

BUCHAREST (R) — Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri arrived in Bucharest on Monday and said he hoped Romanian companies would participate in his ambitious projects to rebuild his country ravaged by civil war. "The main goal of the visit is to strengthen the relations between Romania and Lebanon, to open the access for the Romanian companies wanting to participate in Lebanon's reconstruction," Mr. Hariri said on his arrival at Bucharest's Otopeni airport. Mr. Hariri said Beirut appreciated the support Romania had long shown for the Lebanese and Arab cause. Mr. Hariri met Prime Minister Nicolae Vacaroiu and Foreign Minister Teodor Melescanu. On Tuesday he plans to sign accords on economic and trade cooperation and meet President Ion Iliescu. But business dominates the visit.

Kuwaitis may have wages docked to pay U.S.

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — Kuwaitis could have part of their wages docked to help meet the costs of a U.S. military deployment under a scheme being studied by the government, media here said Monday. A cabinet meeting on Sunday decided to set up a ministerial committee "to study ways of Kuwaitis participating in the U.S. military preparations aimed at confronting Iraqi threats." Among the planned measures are "deducting for a determined period a part of the salaries of Kuwaitis working in state and private sectors," the daily Al Anbasa said. "The deduction would not apply to foreign workers who could still make a voluntary, symbolic contribution to the special fund" which will be set up for the purpose. "The time has come for citizens to take on their responsibilities towards their country," Planning Minister Abdul Aziz Al Dekheil told Al Anbasa on Monday. The committee is to be headed by second Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Nasser Al Rudhan.

Uranium smugglers arrested in India

NEW DELHI (AFP) — Indian police have arrested four people on charges of attempting to smuggle 2.5 kilograms of refined uranium out of the country, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported Monday. The four alleged smugglers were arrested in Shillong, capital of the far northeastern state of Meghalaya, on Oct. 12, the news agency said. The refined uranium was seized from them, it added. PTI said one of the four people arrested was a Bangladeshi national. They have been handed over by district police to investigators of the federal Central Investigation Department, it said. The Calcutta-based Telegraph newspaper said the high-grade uranium was "possibly" being smuggled to "countries hostile to India." Further details were not immediately available.

Cairo bans rally protesting Mahfouz attack

CAIRO (AFP) — Egyptian authorities Monday banned a demonstration which writers and other artists planned to hold Tuesday in protest at an attack on the Nobel prize-winning novelist Naguib Mahfouz. "The police refused to authorise the demonstration under the emergency law banning protests and public gatherings in the street," one of the organisers said, requesting anonymity. "The police also fear that terrorist elements could infiltrate the march and harm the protesters," he said, adding that the police found out about the march through press reports.

Iran says it spends \$10m a day on refugees

NICOSIA (R) — Iran spends at least \$10 million a day to care for three million Iraqi and Afghan refugees, an official has said. The official Iranian news agency quoted Ahmad Reza Hosseini, director general of the Interior Ministry's Bureau of Aliens and Foreign Nationals, as voicing concern on Sunday night that money allocated by international organisations for the refugees was hardly enough. He said \$24 million allocated by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for more than two million Afghan refugees in Iran was "far from the real expenses of the refugees incurred by Iran." Mr. Hosseini said Iran provides the refugees with education, health services, transport and fuel subsidies as well as coupons allowing them to buy basic goods at subsidised prices.

Thousands march in Gaza, accuse Arafat of betrayal

GAZA CITY (Agencies) — Thousands of Hamas supporters marched here Monday on a third day of protests, accusing Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat of betraying hardliners to Israel and demanding the resignation of the Palestinian police chief.

Tensions ran high as the crowd accused Mr. Arafat and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) of helping Israeli security forces to locate the West Bank hideout where kidnappers from the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas were holding an Israeli soldier hostage last week.

In a failed rescue attempt by Israeli troops on Friday, the corporal, an army captain and three of the kidnappers were killed.

Demonstrators distributed leaflets here on "the role of Arafat and the self-rule authority," in passing information to Israel.

"The Palestinian leadership has become a cheap instrument in the hands of Israeli intelligence and has joined the ranks of the enemy

of the Palestinian people," the leaflet said.

Officials from the internal security service Shin Beth told Israeli Radio on Saturday they had been given information by the Palestinian police in the hunt for abducted 19-year-old corporal Nachshon Waxman.

But the reports were denied Monday by Israeli Deputy Chief of Staff Amnon Shahak and the head of Shin Beth, whose name is kept secret, who told a parliamentary committee the PNA had not provided the Israeli army with any clues.

In Monday's protest, thousands, some shooting in the air, marched to the central jail to demand the release of all fundamentalists detained after the kidnapping.

The angry crowd surged against a fence surrounding the jail, shouting slogans at burocrats of Mr. Arafat's police before dispersing peacefully.

Even though Mr. Arafat tried to defuse the crisis with Hamas by freeing some of the detainees from jail, Islamic activists denounced the PLO

leaders. "We condemn the shameful role that the Palestinian authority played in serving the enemy authority and in helping them to reach the kidnappers' hideout," said the Hamas leaflet.

Demonstrators outside the jail shouted angry slogans at police: "Hamas will shake the land" and "We'll burn Gaza."

The crowd, ignoring a pouring rain, held aloft posters of Sheikh Ahmad Yassin, the founder and spiritual leader of the Hamas movement who is jailed by Israel.

"I call on Arafat to immediately release all our prisoners in order to prevent bloodshed. I call on Arafat not to obey the orders of Rabin," said Hamas leader Mahmoud Zahar, urging the Palestinian leader to fire police chief Major General Nasser Yousef.

Two armed members of Izzidine Al Qassam, the military wing of Hamas, fired dozens of rounds into the air from automatic rifles as they approached the jail. They

were hugged and kissed by the demonstrators.

Protesters, some wearing green headbands, shouted slogans against Gen. Yousef and raised both green Islamic flags and Palestinian banners.

"Dowu with Nasser Yousef, God is great," chanted the crowd estimated by reporters at about 10,000 as it moved from the Sheikh Radwao neighbourhood where one of the kidnappers of the Israeli soldiers lived.

Two PLO police cars attempted to lead the march, but more than 100 marchers surrounded the cars and forced them off the road.

Earlier Gen. Ghazi Jabali announced that a police commander, Khamis Abu Sukuk, had been detained and questioned after shooting in the air at a Hamas rally on Sunday.

In a gesture designed to ease tensions, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin lifted a closure on the Gaza Strip that barred nearly 30,000 workers from jobs in Israel.

The PLO and Israel also planned to resume negotiations on expanding Palesti-

nian self-rule to the rest of the West Bank.

Police began freeing detainees with 60 released by Monday morning, said Gen. Jabali, the Gaza police commander. He said all detainees would be set free within a few days.

"I told them that they will all be released into their homes," Gen. Jabali told the Associated Press.

On Sunday, Palestinian troops had blocked the centre of Gaza city to prevent Hamas riots. They joined Israeli soldiers to defuse protests by hundreds of Hamas followers near an isolated Jewish settlement.

Gen. Jabali said the political dialogue with Hamas would resume soon in hopes of persuading the faction to take part in autonomy.

Hamas is the leading opponent to the autonomy accord, but has not ruled out participating in Palestinian general elections under certain conditions.

Meanwhile, police will soon begin confiscating unregistered weapons, Gen.

Jabali said. The campaign appeared aimed mainly at Izzidine Al Qassam.

One of Hamas' leaders, Dr. Mahmoud Zahar, insisted repeatedly that the political leadership of Hamas was not involved in the abduction.

Geo. Jabali revealed Monday that Dr. Zahar was given a gun licence last week, and that police were also ready to supply him with bodyguards. Gen. Jabali did not say who might be out to harm the Hamas leader.

In the autonomous West Bank town of Jericho, a weapons registration drive began Monday, Israel Radio reported.

Meanwhile, the Islamic Jihad group called on the Palestinian police to disobey the orders of the self-rule authority.

In a statement received in Cyprus, it said: "We call on our brothers in the Palestinian police to cooperate with the (Hamas) activists and reject the humiliating orders given in them to hunt militants."

Kohl fends off predictions government will be unstable

BONN (Agencies) — Chancellor Helmut Kohl narrowly wooed his fourth term, but needed all his political skill Monday to start reforming his weakened coalition and fend off predictions of an unstable government.

"Willy Brandt once said, 'a majority is majority,'" Mr. Kohl happily quoted a Social Democratic predecessor after his three-party coalition emerged from Sunday's parliamentary voting with a 10-per cent majority and 48.4 per cent of the national ballots.

That was a big comeback from a cushion of 134 seats, and 54.8 per cent of the vote, that Mr. Kohl's grouping wooed four years ago in the euphoria of unification.

Mr. Kohl, 64, has been one of Europe's most important statesmen since taking office 12 years ago at the helm of a nation of 80 million in the heart of Europe. Although foreign policy was not a campaign issue, he made it a theme of his post-vote news conference.

"All of us need Europe,

but we Germans need Europe more than others," Mr. Kohl said. "We're not sitting on an island like some others. It's important that we remain the European motor."

Mr. Kohl rejected comments from observers and his main rival, Social Democratic leader Rudolf Scharping, that the conservative-right coalition might not last. He said he had chatted on the telephone with his partners — Finance Minister Theo Waigel and the Christian Social Union and Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel of the Free Democrats — about forming a new government.

"We'll wait and see what the coalition negotiations will lead to," Mr. Scharping commented. "We doubt that they will produce the stability we would wish for Germany."

His campaign manager, Guenter Verbeuge, said he had been contacted by a leader of the Free Democrats, whom he would not name, and said, "The signals are such that I don't predict any

great stability for this coalition."

Official figures made clear the centre-right coalition had held off the combined challenge of Social Democrats (SPD), Greens and the reform Communist Party of Democratic Socialism (PDS) by just 143,000 votes in an electorate of 60.2 million.

Politicians and pundits were quick to discern a radically different political scene and potential frictions. The narrow win drove the mark up to two-year highs against the dollar, and the bond market and shares rebounded after initial declines.

Amid speculation the government would be hard put to survive its four-year term, CDU General Secretary Peter Hintze told journalists Mr. Kohl and Mr. Kinkel "have agreed to make the coalition negotiations quick."

He said they would look at calls, from the FDP and others, for a cost-saving cut in the number of ministries from 19.

Kohl victory expected, but reform communists' show causing concern

By Cathy King
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Following the reelection of Chancellor Helmut Kohl's 12-year-old coalition on Sunday, German embassy officials in Amman said that Mr. Kohl's success was to be expected.

While no-one conceded their actual political allegiances, a certain inquietude regarding the increased strength of a re-emerging Communist Party was discernible.

"The result was to be expected. However, the increase in PDS strength is worrying. While it won the seats democratically, and I do not dispute that I see the growth in PDS power as a threat," said embassy official Ingrid Lieders.

The PDS still represents the old communist rule of the GDR (East Germany). If it is prepared to reform its policies in line with the style of democracy advocated by the Federal Republic of Germany, then it would be a more viable option."

According to reports from Germany, liberal and conservative German newspapers said that the electorate had opted for security and continuity in Sunday's general election, giving Chancellor Kohl a narrow majority with which to continue his coalition of Christian Democrats (CDU/CSU) and Free Democrats (FDP).

The official result announced Monday of the 41.4 per cent for CDU/CSU, was down 2.3 per cent from the results of 1990 elections and was its worst result since 1949.

Chancellor Kohl has said he planned to continue his coalition of CDU/CSU and FDP.

The total number of seats in the new parliament is 672 of which CDU/CSU won 294, 25 less than in 1990, while the losing left-wing parties, the Social Democrat Party (SPD), Greens and Reform Communist Party of Demo-

cratic Socialism (PDS) moved ahead.

The SPD gained 37.1 per cent of the votes, up from 33.5 per cent at the last election; Greens attained 7.3 per cent and PDS 4.4 per cent, up from 3.9 and 2.4 per cent respectively in 1990.

The secretary general of the Jordan Communist Party, Dr. Yacoub Zayadine, who, prior to the elections, told the Jordan Times that he hoped for an SPD win, has sent a letter addressed to President Roman Herzog expressing his party's concern about the recent conviction and imprisonment of GDR former Defence Minister Heinz Kessler.

Dr. Zayadine regards the seven-year sentence as inhumane; Mr. Kessler is 73 years old and ailing. Dr. Zayadine said that he thought a SPD-led government may look more favourably upon his request.

Dr. Zayadine's letter "Asked Kohl to stop unfair and unjust treatment of Germans who were workers and active members of the former GDR fighting against Nazism."

"Arabs feel indebted to the GDR because it helped us a

great deal and supported us against imperialism," he said.

"Thousands of young Arab people were educated in the GDR; people were treated in its hospitals and now that the situation is different we must defend their cause," he added.

"We have not forgotten that the German race is a great nation with great poets, scientists etc., and the German government must keep this in mind too. It must respect this by remembering its past and its history," Dr. Zayadine said.

Dr. Zayadine passed the letter to the German embassy here to be forwarded to President Herzog. An embassy official said that the letter had been forwarded to the foreign office without comment.

The official, requesting anonymity, said that everyone was entitled to express their opinion, but anyone found guilty according to the laws of the land should pay the penalty.

The official added that it was up to the foreign office and President Herzog to decide whether any action should be taken on account of the letter's content.

Jordan urges joint projects

(Continued from page 12)

Also discussed during the day's event were agriculture and agro-industry, industry, energy and infrastructure, and the environment, water and nature conservation.

Of particular focus were possibilities of investment in tourism, a key sector that is expected to boom in the region.

Moderating the conference, organised by the Chamber of Industry, was Tawfiq Kassar, Denmark's honorary general consul in Jordan.

The meeting offered a closer and detailed view of prospects of Jordanian and Palestinian cooperation in business ventures and an international perspective of investment and business opportunities in the Middle East.

Observers noted that it was one of the rare forums where Jordanian and Palestinian officials and experts interact with foreign businessmen.

The conference was an opportunity for Jordanian, Palestinian and Danish businessmen to hold separate meetings to discuss ideas and proposals.

The Danish delegation, which arrived Sunday and will be here until Oct. 20, includes leading manufacturers and exporters, architects, consulting engineers in dairy plants, shipping companies, travel agents, experts in the environment and ecology, waste-collection and disposal, food technology, pharmaceuticals and refrigeration and contractors.

Arafat names mufti for Jerusalem

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Jerusalem is to have two muftis for the first time in history after both Jordan and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) announced their own appointments to the highest Muslim post in the Holy City.

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat, president of the PNA, said on Sunday that 70-year-old Sheikh Akrim Said Sabri would take over the role.

In Amman, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, had already reported that Sheikh Abdul Kader Abdeen would replace Sheikh Suleiman Jaabari who died last week. "The cabinet has decided

to appoint Sheikh Abdul Kader Abdeen as mufti of Jerusalem, in addition to his current post as acting supreme religious judge," a Jordanian cabinet statement said.

Jerusalem has been at the centre of a controversy between Jordan and the PLO since Israel and Jordan signed a joint peace declaration on July 25 which recognised Jordan's special role in administering Muslim holy sites in the West Bank, including the Holy City.

Jordan bears responsibility for Muslim shrines in East Jerusalem.

But the Palestinian self-rule authority has staked its own claim to sites in East Jerusalem, which it also

wants as the capital of a future Palestinian state.

Officials from both sides have played down the dispute, often saying there is no strain in ties.

Jordan recently handed over the administration of Muslim holy sites in the West Bank to the Palestinians, but said it would maintain control of those in Jerusalem.

Mr. Arafat's press adviser Nabil Ahn Rdeineh said the PLO chairman had decided on Sunday to put Sheikh Sabri in charge of religious affairs throughout the West Bank and Gaza, home to nearly two million Palestinians.

Sheikh Sabri is a prayer leader in Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem.

Jordan, Israel initial treaty

(Continued from page 1)

on water rights, borders and security. The King and Mr. Rabin stressed that neither side lost.

"No one lost, no one won, we all won," Mr. Rabin said. "We found ways to bridge the limited gaps..."

Mr. Rabin said the two sides agreed on what used to be the international boundary between Jordan and the British-mandated Palestine drawn up on paper in 1921 with "mutual minor border ratifications."

Israeli foreign ministry spokesman Danny Shek said the territorial dispute would be settled "case by case." But he gave no detail ahead of the signing of the peace treaty, expected next week.

Jordan has been pressing to recover 380.1 square kilometres of Wadi Araba desert area between the Red Sea and the Dead Sea.

It also claims five square kilometres between the Red Sea resorts of Aqaba in Jordan and Eilat in Israel, and 0.8 square kilometres in the north, near the Yarmouk, where the Syrian, Jordanian and Israeli borders meet.

To back up its claims, Jordan has pointed to the border drawn up in September 1922 by Britain, which also held the mandate for Transjordan.

The international border dividing Transjordan from Palestine followed the bed of the dried-up Araba river, from a point on the Gulf of Aqaba near Eilat, to the Dead Sea in the north.

North of the West Bank, the border ran along the Jordan River to its confluence

with the Yarmouk.

But the British did not erect posts marking the borders of Palestine.

Israel recognised the frontier in armistice agreements signed in Rhodes on April 3, 1949, following the 1948 Middle East war.

However, after the June 1967 war, Israel declared a ceasefire line several hundred metres to the east of the original border along Wadi Araba to occupy strategic heights.

Many Jordanians were taken by surprise when they heard of the accord through the Israeli media, which reported the event live.

Jordan's media did not report for four hours because of technical problems. The signing was delayed by three hours as final negotiations continued.

"We sat together throughout the night, the atmosphere was exceptional," said Shimon Sheves, a senior Rabin aide. "The prime minister and the King went through the draft... paragraph by paragraph."

"I advise (Assad) to look around him at what is happening," Mr. Weizman said. "He will soon be the last on the list" of Arab countries to make peace with Israel.

Mr. Weizman hailed the agreement between Israel and Jordan "which will thus join Egypt."

about our future," said Majed Ghamra, cultural and public relations director at Yarmouk University.

"Frankly, until now neither us nor the Israelis were sure of our future. Now we can think about our lives, our future, our children. It seems we are getting our rights. What were our alternatives? And what else do we want?"

"We can finally be sure

Economic disaster called GATT

(Continued from page 6)

world but exert downward pressure on wages because the value of labour will decline. Value-added is the increase of value obtained when you convert raw materials into a manufactured product. In a mature society such as our own, we have been able to develop — through generations of political debate, elections, strikes, lockouts and other conflicts — a general agreement as to how it should be shared between labour and capital. Global free trade will brutally shatter that agreement.

Until wage levels and standards of living in the developing world can be brought into closer alignment with those of the West, we must replace the concept of global free trade by free and vigorously

competitive regional markets. NAFTA and Europe are the two largest free trade areas ever created. Obviously both are more than big enough to ensure highly competitive internal markets. They would not cut themselves off from the world, but would welcome innovation from anywhere.

Foreign corporations wishing to sell their products would build factories in America, employ Americans and bring with them their technology and capital. The same, of course, is true for the European economy. What is more, each region would be free to decide how it wishes to trade with other regions including developing countries, entering into bilateral agreements to the mutual advantage of each party.

Developing nations should also form free trade areas, as is currently the case in Latin America. These areas should consist of nations with economies reasonably similar in terms of development and wage structures. Of course, freedom of transfer of technology and capital would be maintained. Thus, corporations wishing to sell products in these regions would produce locally, importing capital and technology and creating local employment. That is the way to create prosperity and stability in the developing world without destroying our own.

Sir James Goldsmith is an international financier who has recently been elected to the European Parliament from France. The article is reprinted from the Washington Post.

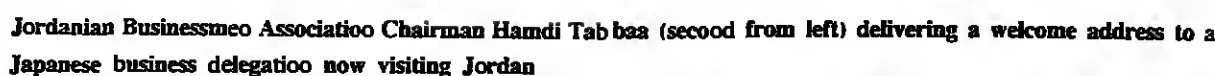
EUROCURRENCY INTEREST RATES Date: 17/10/1994

highest bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.
Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

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AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian Businessmen Association (JBA) Monday proposed to a visiting Japanese delegation the idea of establishing a Jordan-Japan business council to help boost economic and trade relations between Jordan and Japan.

The idea was presented by JBA Chairman Hamdi Tabbaa at a meeting with 12 Japanese businesspersons currently on a five-day visit to Jordan.

Mr. Tabbaa outlined a number of potential joint ventures in electronics, car manufacturing as well as phosphate and mining where the two sides can cooperate especially in the coming peace era which promises stability and security in the region.

"Jordan can benefit a great deal from Japanese expertise in industry, technology and industrial management and through Japanese help the Kingdom can serve as a gate for jointly-manufactured products to be marketed in Palestine and Iraq," said Mr. Tabbaa.

A press release from the Japanese Embassy said the group, which is on a tour of countries in the region, wanted to familiarise itself with the prospects for commercial and joint investment projects in the coming peace era.

The group represents 1,500 executives employed in 900 corporations in Japan and their visit to Jordan is the first of its kind after the Gulf crisis.

Besides the Japanese delegation the Associated press said that a 20-strong team of American businessmen of Egyptian origin opened talks Monday with Jordanian officials and industrialists on trade between Jordan and Egypt and investment in both countries.

The team represents the 650-member American Chamber of Commerce in Cairo, an affiliate of the United States Chamber of Commerce and the largest such American chamber in the Middle East.

"The purposes of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and its affiliates in foreign countries are to identify business opportunities of common interest, to promote two-way trade and investment, and to strengthen the bridge between the American and foreign business communities," a U.S. Embassy statement said.

During their five-day visit to Jordan initiated by the embassy, the delegation is scheduled to meet with senior government officials as well as businessmen and visit Jordanian industries.

Monday's meetings, held at the Amman Chamber of Commerce, mostly involved an exchange of views of trade and investment opportunities and a question-and-answer session between the two groups.

Trade between Jordan and Egypt was less than \$45 million in 1993 and was heavily in Egypt's favour, Amman

and Cairo have signed protocols to increase trade this year.

The debate was chaired by Mohammad Asfour, head of the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce, and Shafiq Gabr, executive vice-president of the American Chamber of Commerce in Cairo.

Both sides complained of obstacles facing trade and discussed how to tackle them.

The outcome of the meetings is expected to be formulated into recommendations to be submitted to the Jordanian and Egyptian governments.

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian United International Consulting (UIC) has published its second "Financial index of the industrial sector" which includes comparative statistical and financial analysis of all industrial public shareholding companies in Jordan for the year 1992-1993.

The significance of the financial index lies in revealing new performance standards for industries in Jordan, in addition to industry averages which can be considered a base for measuring company performance.

- The analysis of each industry and the aggregate analysis consists of:
 - Balance sheet for the year 92-93.
 - Income statement for the year 92-93 and the horizontal and vertical analysis of its items.
 - Financial ratios for the year 92-93.
 - New performance measurements that would help investors in making accurate decisions.

Save
water ...
every drop
counts!

Uzbekistan a new force in Asian football

HIROSHIMA (AFP) — Uzbekistan may not dominate Asian football in the future but it will be a significant force within the region, coach Rustam Akramov said in the wake of the former Soviet republic's unopposed run at the Asian Games.

Uzbekistan sprung together their seventh win compressed into a fortnight in disposing of China 4-2 in Sunday's final in a memorable first appearance at the Asian Games.

The Uzbekis, miraculously 1-0 semi-final survivors over World Cup finalists South Korea, have materialised into a new regional football power.

"By having these new republics in the Asian football arena we can create a new phase in this part of the world," Akramov said.

"I don't think we can dominate Asian football, but I am certain we can make a significant contribution to the development of the Asian game."

"I am proud of today's victory for two reasons. One because we have become a member of the Asian football family and that my squad won the gold medal at their first attempt," he said.

Uzbekistan injected a freshness with their near European-style against the

francophone Asians. Observers are still scratching their heads to wonderment as to how Uzbekistan managed to overcome the Koreans, who were denied by Uzbeki pluck and luck before

Malaysian-based striker Azamat Abduraimov conjured a stunning second half winner.

Anatoli Byshovets' Koreans could not breach their defence and the Uzbekis thrived on their fortune to outclass the Chinese, playing in their first Asian Games final.

Igor Shkvyrin, the long-haired 31-year-old striker who plays for Maccabi Haifa in Israel, was outstanding. Shkvyrin was given no chance of playing in the final

after injuring his hamstring against the Koreans yet the striker asked to play on the morning of the match and was the man of the match. Shkvyrin scored the opening goal and set up two others.

He finished with eight goals overall, three less than leading scorer, Hwang Sun-Hong of Korea, but his ball control and intelligent positioning made him an irresistible chance as player of the tournament.

Uzbekistan's other leading lights were striker Abduraimov, midfielder Mirzhalol Kosvov, goalkeeper Yuri Sheikin and defender Andrei Fedorov.

Akramov confirmed after the final that several of his players had been approached to play in Malaysia.

Despite the loss it was a marked improvement for China, progressing in the wake of their new professional domestic league to the silver medal from their bronze at the 1978 Asian

Games. "The Uzbekis provided good experience for us and we will have to make more effort to compete in better terms," said Chinese coach Qi Wusheng. "We have had to play many games in a short time to reach the final and my squad deserves credit for that."

It was a deflating finish for South Korea, who fought back from three goals down to lose 3-2 in former world champions Germany at the World Cup in Dallas last June.

South Korea were the favourites for the final after eliminating host nation Japan with an injury time penalty in a passionate 3-2 quarterfinal triumph.

But despite peppering Uzbekistan's goal with 27 shots they could not score in the semifinal.

They bowed out losing the bronze medal play-off 2-1 in Kuwait, but they appeared the best team here along with Uzbekistan. Ko Jeong-

Woon, Ha Seok-Ju and Hwang Sun-Hong had splendid tournaments.

Kuwait produced their best performance in their final match to pick up their first medal since finishing runners-up to Iraq at the 1982 New Delhi Games.

Kuwait, playing what their Russian coach Valeri Lohanovski termed as "modern football," beat the Koreans for a second time in the tournament. They won 1-0 in their preliminary group.

"It was a special pleasure for us that we beat Korea twice in the tournament. Korea is one of the best teams at the Asian Games and we beat them with different tactics in the bronze medal match," said Lohanovski, who coached Russia at the 1990 World Cup.

Lohanovski, who has a three-year contract to prepare the oil-rich Gulf state for the 1998 World Cup finals, will now aim Kuwait for next month's Gulf Cup.



CLOSING CEREMONY: Dancers carrying torches Sunday perform during the closing ceremony of the 12th Asian Games. The 13th Asian Games will be staged in Bangkok in 1999 (AFP photo)

Some prominent Asian Games winners and losers

HIROSHIMA (AP) — Some prominent winners, and losers, at the Asian Games:

Biggest Winners: The Chinese women's swimming team won all 15 of its races, and Lu Bin had four of the golds, including a world record in the 200-metre individual medley in 2 minutes, 11.57 seconds.

Sinking start: World record holder Le Jingyi missed her chance in the women's 50-metre freestyle when she was disqualified for a false start. Apparently realising her mistake immediately, she jumped into the pool feet first and bobbed in position while the other swimmers finished the race. Teammate Lu won the gold.

Mightiest mite: Chinese gymnast Mo Huelan, nicknamed "Mighty Mouse," piled up five gold medals. The 15-year-old stands just 132 centimetres (4 feet, 4 inches) tall and weighs 27 kilograms (59 pounds).

Laudable lifters: China's women weightlifters swept all nine weight divisions, setting world record totals in six of them.

Prize punchers: The Philippines put three boxers into the 12 finals, and all three won — Mansueto Velasco at light flyweight, Elias Recaido Jr. at flyweight and Reynaldo Galido at light welterweight.

Young yachts: Malaysia's Ryan Han Wui Tan, just 14 years old, won the optimist class yachting gold medal. He



South Korea's Lee Jin-Il (left) and Shon Ju-Il (right) celebrate with teammate Kim Soon-Hyung as he crosses the line to win the men's 4x400m relay Sunday at the Asian Games. S. Korea took the gold after Japan dropped the baton early in the race to lose the lead (AFP photo)

already was the Asian champion. Woman spurned: Chire Koyama, a world champion in 1987, quit China's table tennis team when she wasn't selected for the 1988 Olympics. She moved to Japan, married, returned to the sport and beat her former teammates to win the games women's singles gold medal

at age 30.

Sprint king: For the third straight games, Qatar's Tala Mansoor claimed the title of Asia's fastest human by winning the men's 100-metre dash. Far good measure, he won the 200 too, and set games records in both. Total time needed to win two golds: 30.59 seconds (10.18 plus 20.41).

Longest haul: Meanwhile, Kazakhstan's Andrei Kivilev pedaled 4 hours, 31 minutes, 53 seconds for his gold, in the 169.44-kilometre (105.25-mile) cycling road race.

Most valuable: Another distance man, Olympic gold medalist Hwang Young-Jo of South Korea, was named the outstanding athlete of the games after he won the marathon here, too, in 2 hours, 11 minutes, 13 seconds. A committee of the Asian Sports Press Union chose him to receive the Theisang-Beck Lee Cup, named for the first International Olympic Committee member from South Korea.

All-around athletes: Uzbekistan's Ramil Ganiev claimed the title of best male athlete by winning track and field's 10-event decathlon, and broke the Asian record by 10 points with a score of 8,005. For the women, who compete in seven different events, the winner was Syria's Ghada Sehah, whose 6,360 points broke the games record by 129.

Army achievements: The famed Chinese women distance runners of "Ma's army," coached by Ma Junren, had no trouble winning in games record times, but didn't come close to their world records. Wang Junxia's 30 minutes, 50.34 seconds in the 10,000 was more than a minute slower than her world mark of 29:31.78, and Qu Yunxia's 4:12.48 in the 1,500 was well off her world record of 3:50.46.

Comeback kings: The Japanese men's volleyball team was two points from a straight-sets defeat in the gold medal game against China. But, cheered on by some 6,000 shrieking home fans, it came from down 13-11 in the third set to a 12-15, 13-15, 15-13, 15-2, 15-10 victory.

Nifty newcomers: Uzbekistan, one of five former Soviet republics making their Asian games debut, battled unbeaten through the games soccer tournament, edging South Korea 1-0 in the semifinals despite being outshot 27-4 and then beating China 4-2 in the gold medal game.

Spoiler: Olympic and all-England women's badminton champion Susa Susanti of Indonesia wanted an Asian Games gold to complete her collection, but lost 11-4, 11-5 in the semifinals to Hisako Mizui, a Japanese office clerk. Mizui then lost in the finals to South Korea's Bang Soo-Hyun.

Game stopper: Gold medal hopefuls India and Pakistan met on the opening day of Asian Games competition in kahaddi, a tag-like sport from South Asia, but never finished the game. A disputed call with the score 19-19 led to a dispute that lasted so long officials called off the game under a rule that play cannot be interrupted more than 20 minutes. When the game was played two days later, India won 42-20, clinching the championship.

Sanders leads 49ers past former teammates in Atlanta

American Football

possession of first place in the NFC East.

In Miami, Bernie Parmelee rushed for a career-high 150 yards and set up Pete Stoyanovich's 29-yard field goal with 9:14 left in overtime that lifted the Dolphins to a 20-17 victory over the Los Angeles Raiders.

Miami (5-2) took sole possession of first place in the AFC East as the Bills lost. The Raiders dropped to 2-4.

Parmelee had five carries for 45 yards in overtime. "They were going to have to carry me off the field today," said Parmelee, who is also the best special teams player on the Dolphins and recovered a key fumble in the fourth quarter.

Raiders quarterback Jeff Hostetler was just 8-of-23 for 95 yards. Hostetler argued with coach Art Shell during the first half and was benched for two possessions.

"Ask coach Shell about what happened," said Hostetler. "It was the coach's decision to sit Hostetler," said Shell.

In Buffalo, Jim Harbaugh passed for two touchdowns before leaving the game with an injured right hand and replacement Don Majkowski added a scoring pass in the fourth quarter as the Indianapolis Colts stunned the Bills 27-17.

"It was a great victory for us," said Colts coach Ted Marchibroda. "This is a game we deserved. We executed well."

The Colts improved to 3-4. The Bills slipped to 4-3.

In New Orleans, Natrone Means ran for 120 yards and three touchdowns and John Carney kicked five field goals

as the San Diego Chargers remained the only unbeaten team in the NFL with a 36-22 victory over the Saints. The Chargers (6-0) are off to their best start since 1961, when they won their first 11 games and reached the AFL championship game. They lead the AFC West by two games.

At New York, Johnny Johnson rushed for 122 yards, Brad Baxter scored two short touchdowns and the Jets forced four turnovers for a 21-17 victory over the New England Patriots.

The Jets (4-3) turned three turnovers into 17 points and jarred New England (3-4) quarterback Drew Bledsoe on two fourth-quarter fourth-down sacks to preserve their lead.

New York running back Adrian Murrell sprained his right knee and is expected to be sidelined for four to six weeks.

In Los Angeles, Chris Miller threw two first-quarter touchdowns and the Rams held on for a 17-10 win over the struggling New York Giants.

The Rams (3-4), playing without three starters — defensive tackle Sean Gilbert, centre Bern Brostek and tackle Jackie Slater — snapped a two-game losing streak.

The Giants (3-3) lost their third straight. In Pittsburgh, Neil O'Donnell threw for 190 yards and a pair of touchdowns as the Steelers overcame an injury to Barry Foster to defeat the Cincinnati Bengals 4-2.

Pittsburgh improved to 4-2 while Cincinnati fell to 0-6. The Bengals are the only winless team in the NFL.

Foster left the game early in the first quarter with a sprained left knee. He was replaced by rookie running back Byron "Bam" Morris, who rushed 21 times for 82 yards.

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European soccer leaders keep their heads

PARIS (AFP) — Roma and Nantes kept their heads and their unbeaten records while all about them were losing theirs, and continued to set a searing pace on top of their respective divisions at the weekend.

In Italy, AS Roma moved one point clear at the top thanks to a 2-2 draw at Torino while rivals Parma slumped to their first defeat of the season and AC Milan rounded off a disastrous week by crashing at Padova.

Meanwhile Nantes kept up their fine start to the season in France by beating Lens 3-0 at home on a day when title-holders Paris St. Germain went down in a five goal thriller at Cannes.

Real Madrid took up the running in Spain when they came away 2-1 winners from Espanol, while Deportivo La Coruna were held to a draw at Atletico Madrid.

Roma twice took the lead at Torino with goals by their South American strikers Abel Balboa of Argentina and Fonesca of Uruguay and it needed efforts by Ruggieri Rizzitelli and Cristallini to earn the home side a share of the points.

AC Milan sank deeper into the mire with their defeat and to make matters worse they had French international Marcel Desailly sent off.

It capped a disastrous week for Milan. Beaten by derby rivals Inter in the first-leg of the Italian Cup Wednesday, the champions then had two points deducted by UEFA from their European Champions League tally for an incident in their recent home clash with Austrian side Casino Salzburg in which the visiting goalkeeper Otto Konrad was hit by a bottle.

Padova's Alexei Lalas, the first United States international ever to play in the Serie A, opened the scoring on 23 minutes. Then Desailly, who scored in Milan's European Cup final win over Barcelona in May, received his marching orders in the 36th minute for a second bookable offence.

Lalas' fellow-defender Franco Gahrieli added a second goal on the hour for the home side.

Parma, who crashed to their first defeat in six outings, opened the scoring through Gianfranco Zola. But two penalties from Riccardo Maspiero and another by Roberto Mancini sealed Sampdoria's win.

Inter Milan were never in the hunt against Bari. They fell behind to a first minute goal by Miguel Angel Guerrero and a 57th minute effort by Sandro Tovalieri.

Macedonian Marco Pancev pulled one back for Inter but it was not enough.

Pierpaolo Bresciani scored both goals for Foggia who played hosts to Juventus. And things could have been worse for the visitors. Angelo Peruzzi, however, saved a

late penalty from Oberdan Biagioni.

Lazio won a seven goal spree against Napoli in Rome and are in fourth spot. Croatian Alen Boksic, Pierluigi Casiraghi, Paolo Negro, and Aaron Winter (2) scored in The 5-2 victory.

Nantes took charge against lens when the division's leading goalscorer Patrice Loko scored a goal each side of half-time. Zairese midfielder Claude Makelele hit their third in the dying seconds.

The victory put Nantes on 29 points after 13 matches — three points clear of Lyon who also scored a 3-0 home win by beating Rennes.

Florian Maurice put Lyon clear with two first-half goals and Stephane Paille scored the third four minutes from time.

The immediate challenge from Paris St. Germain slumped when they were beaten at Cannes in a five-goal thriller — all of the goals coming in the second-half.

A David Ginola penalty in the 58th minute opened the score for the visitors but Adrian Koznick, Johan Micoud and Christophe Horvath put Cannes in the driving seat before Valdo scored a last-gasp consolation goal.

Paris St. Germain were reduced to ten men for the last quarter of an hour when Antoine Kombouare was shown his second yellow card.

In the second division, pass setters Marseille, who won their tenth victory of the season by scoring a 1-0 away win over bottom club Nimes — also had a man sent off. Their Irish goalscoring machine Tony Cascarino was given his marching orders 15 minutes from time for a tackle on Prejet.

But before the incident Cascarino had sealed his side's victory with his 18th goal for Marseille four minutes after the interval.

In Spain, two first-half goals from talented young striker Jose Emilio Amavisca clinched Real Madrid's success at Espanol.

Rivals Barcelona also scored an away victory by beating Valencia by the same scoreline — Stoichkov scoring Barcelona's winner in the dying seconds. Earlier a Ronald Koeman penalty had put the visitors back on level terms following a 13th minute goal from Mijatovic. Valencia finished with ten men when Fernando was shown the red card for a deliberate handball.

Deportivo la Coruna needed a 53rd minute goal by Bulgarian international Kostadinov for a 1-1 draw at Atletico Madrid. Atletico had gone clear just before half-time through Colombian frontrunner Valencia.

Sporting Gijon survived a late revival by visiting Albacete to score a 3-2 win, while Saragossa and Real Sociedad were also in the goals.

German pilot Michael Schumacher waves cap and trophy on the winner's podium after beating Britain's Damon Hill to the title of the Spanish Formula One Grand Prix at the Jerez Circuit Sunday (AFP photo)

Schumacher did, failed. "We lost the race when Damon was on the fifth lap with his second set of tyres," he said. "We are never able to be as fast on the second and third sets as we are on the first. I don't know why."

Prost, who raced against Schumacher on the way to his final championship success last season, said he believed the Benetton driver was ready to succeed the great names of the past.

"This was a victory for the right man and for morality and for justice," he said. "He is so strong and so talented and very strong psychologically. He will be very difficult to beat in the final two races."

"But Damon has a chance and he has to gamble everything in Suzuka. They need to take all possible risks there because now they have nothing to lose."

"It is a very good final battle between two drivers with very different characters even became so irritated by suggestions that he had already signed an agreement with Mercedes that he had already signed an agreement with Mercedes that he lost his composure during a press conference."

Asked by a French woman journalist if he had visited Mercedes last week during a trip to Germany, he replied: "I will tell you, if you tell me the last time you had sex." Dennis later apologised and explained he had reacted in this way to show his questioner how some subjects are personal and confidential.

Schumacher wins Prost seal of approval

IEREZ, Spain (R) — Michael Schumacher's convincing victory in the European Grand Prix earned praise from many of Formula One's greatest names and put the 25-year-old German within reach of becoming the youngest drivers' world champion.

Four times title-winner Alain Prost led the tributes. "Schumacher dominated the race," he said. "He is the greatest driver of the modern era without any argument and that is whether or not he wins the title."

"The way he has come back from a two-race suspension and performed like this is so impressive."

Jochen Mass, Germany's former Formula One hero and the last driver from the country to win a Grand Prix, added: "This was one of his greatest wins. He did a brilliant job all-round. I think he won the race in his preparation as much as anything. He was ready for it and he was prepared for anything."

Damon Hill, bitterly disappointed to finish second after leading from the start, had to admit that his rival had done "a brilliant job."

The only critical observation came from Hill's Williams team owner, Frank Williams, who claimed Schumacher received more assistance than his own driver when overtaking backmarkers.

"They all moved over to make it easier for Michael and gave Damon a hard time," said Williams, who also admitted that his team's strategy of having two pit-stops instead of three, as



German pilot Michael Schumacher waves cap and trophy on the winner's podium after beating Britain's Damon Hill to the title of the Spanish Formula One Grand Prix at the Jerez Circuit Sunday (AFP photo)

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GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
AND TAMARA HIRSCH
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CANNONS TO THE RIGHT OF THEM

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ A J 5 3 2
♥ 8 8 6 4
♦ J 10
♣ 4 2

WEST EAST
♠ 10 6 ♠ K Q 9 8
♥ 5 ♥ Void
♦ A K 7 6 5 2 ♦ 9 8 4 3
♣ A 8 6 3 ♣ Q J 10 9 7

SOUTH
♠ 7 4
♥ A K Q J 10 7 8 2
♦ Q
♣ K 5

The bidding:

North - East South - West

Pass Pass 4 Pass

Pass Pass
Opening lead: King of
♥ If the enemy guns are massed on the right, it is prudent to move your forces out of range rather than hope they miss their target. You may then be able to snip their communications and mount a flanking attack to break through.

Since North was a passed hand, South gave up all thoughts of slam in favor of stealing as much of the enemy bidding space as possible.

The tactic worked perfectly when West judged that immediate intervention at such a high level was too dangerous and East pusillanimously

sold out. As a result, South bought the hand when the opponents could have made a slam with the help of a finesse in clubs.

West led the king of diamonds and when dummy appeared declarer realized the hand could not be defeated if East held the ace of clubs. But what if West held the ace? In that case declarer would have to set up a long spade in dummy for a club discard.

Any straightforward attempt to pursue this line, however, ran an obvious risk—should East gain the lead in spades a club return through the king might prove fatal. Declarer found an elegant way to cut the

enemy communications. When, after winning the king of diamonds West continued with the ace, declarer discarded a spade instead of ruffing!

West shifted to a spade. Declarer won, ruffed a spade high, then overtook the seven of hearts with the eight for another spade ruff. High.

The three of trumps was overtaken for a third spade ruff setting up a long card in the suit. Since the carefully preserved device of hearts could now be used to return to the table for a discard on the long spade, declarer lost only two diamond tricks and a club.

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Local Line Plant

The "Special Tender Committee" for the National Telecommunications Programme announces Tender No. 48/94 for the installation of local line plant (civil and electrical work) for (220 000) direct exchange telephone lines. The scope of work includes also the supply of all required materials and accessories except telephone cables and poles which shall be supplied by TCC.

This project is considered as one of the main parts of the National Telecommunications Programme and it shall be implemented on "turn-key" basis.

Special Tender Committee hereby invites Tenderers to submit their Tenders in accordance with the conditions, instructions and specifications contained in the Tender Documents

Note: The Tenderer should be a joint venture of at least two firms as partners, one of them should be a local firm classified by the Ministry of Public Works and Housing as "First Class" in the field of "Buildings" or "Water & Sewerage", and the other should be an international firm specialized in management and installation of similar projects.

Tender Documents can be obtained from the office of the Secretary of Tender Committee / TCC Headquarters / Tower Building against a non refundable fee of one thousand five hundred (1500) Jordanian Dinar as from Tuesday, October 18, 1994.

Tenders, accompanied by a tender guarantee of one million JD, are to be submitted not later than 12.00 a.m. local time on Wednesday 18, January, 1995. The technical offers will be opened at the presence of Tenderers representatives on the same date.

Note: The last date for purchasing the Tender documents is Nov. 24, 1994.

Acting Director General/
Chairman of Special Tender Committee

Eng. Waleed Dweik

مؤسسة الاتصالات السلكية واللاسلكية اعلان صادر عن لجنة العطاءات الخاصة بمشاريع البرنامج الوطني للاتصالات طرح العطاء رقم ٤٨ / ٩٤ تنفيذ شبكات التوزيع الهاتفية

تعلن لجنة العطاءات الخاصة بمشاريع البرنامج الوطني للاتصالات عن طرح العطاء رقم ٩٤/٤٨ للقيام بأعمال الإنشاءات المدنية والتركيبات اللاسلكية لشبكات التوزيع الهاتفية التي يبلغ حجمها ما مجموعه ٢٢٠ ألف رقم هاتفي بالإضافة لتوريد كافة المواد واللوازم اللازمة لهذه الأعمال باستثناء الكوابل والأعمدة الهاتفية حيث ستقوم المؤسسة بتوريدها

يعتبر هذا المشروع أحد الأجزاء الرئيسية للبرنامج الوطني للاتصالات وسيتم تنفيذه على أساس تسليم مفتاح.

سيتم الإشراك في هذا العطاء على أساس ائتلاف مكون من شركتين على الأقل تكون إحداها شركة محلية مصنفة من قبل وزارة الأشغال العامة والإسكان في الفئة الأولى في مجال الإبنية أو مياه ومجاري والأخرى شركة عالمية مختصة في إدارة وتنفيذ مشاريع مشابهة

تدعو لجنة العطاءات الخاصة بالشركات المختصة لتقديم عروضها حسب المواصفات والشروط والتعليمات الواردة في وثائق العطاء والتي يمكن الحصول عليها مقابل مبلغ ألف وخمسمائة ١٥٠٠ دينار غير مستردة من كتب سكرتيرية لجنة العطاءات مبنى الإدارة العامة عمارة البرج وذلك اعتباراً من يوم الثلاثاء الموافق ١٨/١٠/١٩٩٤.

تقدم العروض مرفقة بتماني دخول العطاء بقيمة مليون دينار في موعد أقصاه الساعة ١٢:٠٠ من يوم الأربعاء الموافق ١٨/١٠/١٩٩٤ وسيتم فتح العروض الغنية بحضور من يرغب من المناقصين في نفس الموعد.

ملاحظة: آخر موعد لبيع وثائق العطاء هو يوم الخميس الموافق ١٩٩٤/١١/٢٤.

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Syria reports 'progress' in peace talks

DAMASCUS (AFP) — Syria spoke Monday of "progress" in peace negotiations with Israel for the first time since they were launched in 1991.

"It is true that minimal progress has been achieved," Syrian state radio said. "But this progress does not affect the position of Israel, which must first announce its intention to withdraw totally from the Golan Heights before we can talk about real progress in the peace process."

The comments came as Israel and Jordan initiated a historic peace treaty Monday. The official signing is due to take place next week.

Damascus Radio reported the Israel-Jordanian deal without commenting on it.

Syrian-Israeli peace talks are deadlocked over terms for an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

Israel has offered a partial withdrawal over three years in exchange for normalisation of ties, while Syria is demanding a prior Israeli pledge for a total pullout.

"It is not difficult to reach peace, which requires a sincere desire on the Israeli side and a more effective American role," Syrian radio said.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher voiced optimism Thursday after talks with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad that the two countries were in a "problem-solving mode."

The United States is mediating between the two sides, which have not held direct talks since February.

The radio said Israeli leaders were to blame for "gaps" remaining between the two sides and accused them of wanting to "seize for themselves the advantages of peace."

Israel wanted to end hostilities, open borders, establish security arrangements and launch diplomatic, economic and tourist links "before they have even announced their

readiness to withdraw" from the Golan.

Beirut newspapers quoting Lebanese officials said Monday Israel has agreed in principle to a full withdrawal from the Golan but negotiations with Syria are still blocked over the terms.

The reports came after Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa briefed Lebanese officials on the peace talks which Mr. Christopher had last week in Syria and Israel.

The proposed Israeli pullout would include the Himmeh region which Israel seized in the June 1967 war, one official told the London-based Al Hayat daily.

But differences remain over a timetable for withdrawal and Israeli demands for the "normalisation" of ties with Syria, Al Nahar newspaper said quoting officials who attended Mr. Sharaa's briefing.

Gaps still to be bridged also include security arrangements and the military positions each side will have after a withdrawal, Al Hayat said.

Mr. Christopher is expected to return to the Middle East in two weeks to try to narrow the differences between Syria and Israel, Al Nahar said.

The U.S. envoy will propose the withdrawal be completed in three years, the daily added.

Mr. Christopher carried Syrian ideas to Israel during his shuttle mission last week and brought Israeli replies to Mr. Assad.

At the end of his mission he told reporters in Damascus that his talks with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin had been the most productive to date.

He praised their "seriousness" and said they had entered a phase of trying to solve their problems.

role of the private sector by encouraging its joint ventures with the Danish side.

Outlining incentives offered to investors and joint economic projects, Dr. Khatib said the government was hoping that this policy would contribute to the economic development.

He also expressed hope that Denmark would help Jordan join the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

Also addressing the opening of the event were Danish Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Henrik Wohlb and Chamber of Industry President Khalidoun Abu Hassan.

"We bring along suggestions and ideas of cooperation, but first of all we are here to get to know you, to listen and learn about the development priorities of the region," said Mr. Wohlb, who headed the Danish team to the meeting.

"We are open for initiatives from Jordan and the Palestine (National) Authority on how best to be of assistance, and we are ready to discuss border crossing activities in the region," he said.

Mr. Abu Hassan noted that the "investment climate in Jordan is most amenable to promoting joint ventures and business activities as a whole."

"It is a climate characterised by free enterprise, where the overwhelming volume of business activities is owned by the private sector, which is distinguished for its credibility and attractive innovation."

After the opening session, the meeting heard Jordan and the Palestine National Authority (PNA) outline their perceptions of productive investments in the economies of Jordan and the Palestinian territories.

The PNA was represented at the meeting by Ahmad Qouria, minister of economy, trade and industry in the self-rule government.

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His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres applaud as Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin exchange copies of a

King witnesses peace with Israel turning reality

By Saad G. Hattar
Agence France Presse

AMMAN — It was a dream come true for King Hussein on Monday as he watched his Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali initial a historic peace treaty with his Israeli counterpart Yitzhak Rabin.

As Mr. Rabin sat next to Dr. Majali at a flower-decked table, King Hussein put on a broad smile — flanked by Crown Prince Hassan and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

High-ranking military and civic officials from the two countries were seated in an auditorium at the

Hashemiyeh Palace 20 kilometres west of Amman, a retreat overlooking the West Bank hillsides.

News crews crowded into the area and flooded it with television lights as the two men initialled the document after brief off-the-cuff statements by King Hussein and Mr. Rabin.

Dr. Majali and Mr. Rabin signed their initials with a flourish using a golden-rimmed silver ink placed on the wooden table.

They exchanged signatures on a thin olive-green portfolio — a Jordanian military officer and an

Israeli official switching the portfolios between the two premiers.

The King spoke in Arabic and English, while Mr. Rabin used Hebrew and English.

"I want to congratulate my people in this moment over what has been achieved," said deeply-moved King Hussein in his brief statement.

He then "saluted" Mr. Rabin and the two former enemies shook hands.

"It has been a unique day. It started with rain and ended with bright skies and sunshine thanks to you King Hussein, building a

corner stone for peace."

Mr. Rabin replied.

Jordan is only the second Arab country after Egypt to seal a treaty with Israel.

The treaty should be signed with full state pomp next week. Israeli Television announced that the ceremony would be held on Thursday, October 27, on the joint border in the desert south of the Red Sea.

Mr. Rabin later left Amman with Mr. Peres on board military helicopters taking off from the palace where they had stayed overnight after arriving late Sunday for the surprise summit.

Russia suggests May as tentative date for lifting sanctions on Iraq

Combined agency dispatches

UNITED NATIONS — Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev proposed Monday that the U.N. Security Council lift the oil embargo against Iraq by mid-May if Baghdad recognises Kuwait and its borders.

Speaking before the 15-member body, he said the council should subsequently consider lifting or easing the remaining sanctions if Iraq fully complies with all relevant U.N. resolutions.

"I think that in the course of further consideration of the question the Security Council must be ready to take 'yes' for an answer if Iraq really complies with all the demands in all of the resolutions," he said.

"If Iraq really complies with the demands in all the resolutions then, of course, the present sanctions system loses its sense," he said.

Mr. Kozyrev appeared before the council to report on his recent visit to the Gulf and Iraq, where the Baghdad government said it was ready to recognise Kuwait's sovereignty and borders established by the United Nations after the 1991 Gulf war.

His appearance came just two days after the Security Council passed a resolution demanding that Iraq withdraw all Republican Guard units moved towards the border area and barring any military reinforcements of the area in the future.

Earlier in Monday Mr. Kozyrev met with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to try to resolve their policy differences on Iraq and Bosnia.

The meeting at a Manhattan hotel, which also included talks on the Arab-Israeli

peace process, came two hours before Mr. Kozyrev addressed the U.N. Security Council.

Reports from Baghdad indicated the Iraqi legislature was to hold an extraordinary session to discuss a possible formal recognition of Kuwait. Iraq long has insisted the emirate is an Iraqi province.

Iraq on Oct. 13 essentially agreed to recognise the Kuwaiti border in return for a promise of an easing of UN sanctions.

But Washington has rejected that proposal on the grounds that Iraq cannot be rewarded after massing troops on the Kuwaiti border, raising fears of a new invasion and sparking the dispatch of U.S. and allied troops.

Iraq has said it has withdrawn its forces, but Washington says there are still some troops near the border.

Moscow later threatened to block a U.S.-sponsored draft resolution with a strong military hint condemning Iraq's deployment in the border area, which did not include Kozyrev's initiative.

But at the last minute late Saturday, Washington amended the draft to include a reference to Russian diplomats' efforts and the 15 Security Council members adopted the resolution unanimously.

Experts say Iraq's troop movements over the past 10 days probably mark more of an attempt to get the crushing economic sanctions against Baghdad lifted than any real efforts to launch a new invasion of Kuwait.

Mr. Kozyrev also said Monday that force should be used against Iraq only in the

Iraqi assembly clears way

The Iraqi parliament gave President Saddam Hussein the go-ahead to do whatever he needs to do to get the U.N. Security Council to lift crippling sanctions.

But it did not specifically mention recognising Kuwait, a key condition by the Security Council for easing the embargo.

The Iraqi News Agency quoted Parliament Speaker Saadi Mehdi Saleh as saying that the assembly, after a three-hour, closed-door session, "once again voiced its support for the steps taken by President Saddam Hussein to guarantee Iraq's security and

all of its rights, at the forefront of the right to lift the unjust blockade off our people."

Iraq's ruling Revolutionary Command Council is believed on Saturday to have endorsed the Iraqi leader's promise to Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev the day before to recognise Kuwait's sovereignty in return for easing the sanctions.

That being the case, that statement would indicate approval for recognising Kuwait. But Mr. Saleh did not specifically say that parliament had approved that move.

event of aggressive action by Baghdad.

Mr. Kozyrev made the remark after his meeting with Mr. Christopher.

If there were aggression, of course, force should be used to stop the aggressor, Mr. Kozyrev said. In that case, he said, Russia would side with allied forces, probably even militarily.

France said Monday it was up to the United Nations, not the United States, to decide on the use of force if Iraq fails to withdraw its troops from southern Iraq to their original positions.

"I think it belongs in that case to the Security Council to decide what must be done," French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe said in reply to a question at the end of a three-hour visit to Kuwait.

Attending the Security Council meeting was Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz, who reiterated his gov-

ernment's pledge to recognise Kuwait and the borders set by the United Nations after the Gulf war.

"This is what we discussed with Mr. Kozyrev in Baghdad and we are ready to do it," he said after reading out the joint declaration issued Oct. 13.

He also said Iraq had withdrawn its troops from the border and was prepared to continue cooperating with U.N. arms control monitors.

"The joint communiqué — and I am quoting now — said Iraq emphasised its readiness to positively solve the question of the recognition of the sovereignty of Kuwait and its borders decided by Security Council Resolution 833," he said. Resolution 833, adopted in 1993, accepts the report of a U.N. boundary commission that demarcated the border.

Mr. Aziz attacked British Ambassador Sir David Hann-

(Continued on page 2)

PNA gives cautious welcome to Amman agreement

Combined agency dispatches

THE PALESTINIAN self-rule authority gave a guarded welcome to the Israel-Jordan peace treaty initialled Monday, and urged Israel to move faster in extending Palestinian autonomy.

Nabil Shaath, minister of international cooperation and chief Palestinian negotiator, said the authority was still studying the details of the agreement initialled in Jordan.

"We naturally welcome the spread of the peace process to cover all the Arab region, and we hope Syria and Lebanon also achieve the same," he said.

"But we didn't study the details of the deal. There are sides to it that affect the Palestinian arena that we want to study... for our negotiations with Israel and Jordan."

He did not comment on the question of Jerusalem.

But he criticised Israel as not moving fast enough to extend Palestinian autonomy in the West Bank.

"We want to see Israel speeding up steps which it had delayed around autonomy in the West Bank, and we don't understand the loss of time in this most important issue which is Palestinian-Israeli peace."

The two sides are to resume negotiations Tuesday. Syria criticised the Israel-Jordan peace treaty, insisting that separate agreements between Arab countries and Israel would not bring peace to the Middle East.

"We criticise separate agreements because stability cannot be achieved in the region without a comprehensive and just peace," Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa told reporters.

"The Israeli government should understand that peace is impossible in the region without Lebanon and Syria," he added.

"Arabs are aware that peace has not been achieved yet, although three agreements have already been signed with Israel," he said.

Egypt, the first Arab country to have made peace with Israel, congratulated Jordan and Israel for initialling the treaty saying it was an advanced step towards a comprehensive settlement in the Middle East.

"This is an advanced step in the peace process. Egypt congratulates Jordan and Israel on what has been achieved," Foreign Minister Amr Musa told reporters in Cairo.

"Egypt would like to express its satisfaction at this step and any advanced step that brings us closer to a just and comprehensive peace and secures the withdrawal of Israeli forces and the establishment of normal relations," he added.

Syria's state-run television network broadcast live coverage of the ceremony, using Jordanian TV transmissions. There was no direct comment on the Amman signing by the state media. But earlier, government-run newspapers said Israel was not to be trusted, which has become a daily litany in recent weeks.

Faisal Al Hussein, leading PLO figure in Jerusalem, told Israel's army radio he hoped the Jordan-Israel treaty boded a comprehensive and "warm" peace.

He warned Jordan and Israel not to ignore the Palestinians on regional issues in particular concerning water and the refugees.

forces prior to Mr. Aristide's return, ranking after Haiti's military strongman Lieutenant General Raoul Cedras.

Gen. Cedras left Haiti early last Thursday for exile in Panama leaving his number two in charge.

Gen. Duperval was one of the first to greet Mr. Aristide at the Port-au-Prince airport upon his return from Washington Saturday, the two men embracing enthusiastically in what was taken for a gesture of reconciliation.

Mr. Aristide, overthrown by the military in a bloody coup on Sept. 30, 1991, has said he will shortly replace Gen. Duperval and name his own armed forces chief.

Records.

COLUMN

Deng is in 'reasonably good health'

HONG KONG (AFP) —

China's paramount leader Deng Xiaoping, 90, is in "reasonably good health" despite waning energy caused by an unspecified "old man's disease," a Hong Kong newspaper said Monday. Quoting unnamed sources, the South China Morning Post rejected speculation that Mr. Deng was on a life support system, saying he often managed to take one or two 20-minute outdoor walks per day, accompanied by a nurse. But it said Mr. Deng has succumbed to an unnamed "old man's disease," and added: "The energy level of the patriarch... has declined to the extent that he is only able to attend to the most crucial matters of state."

"On 'good days' it said, Mr. Deng has been able to consult with senior Communist Party leaders, such as former National People's Congress Chairman Wan Li and former Vice Premier Bo Yibo. "For a few days a week, the patriarch is also fit enough to briefly listen to readings from party circulars and documents," the newspaper said, adding that Mr. Deng was being attended to by a medical team of 25 specialists. Mr. Deng has been China's paramount leader since the late 1970s. Last week the Foreign Ministry in Beijing played down speculation of his poor health by describing his condition as "extremely good."

'Heroic mothers of Vietnam' honoured

HANOI (AFP) — Vietnam will honour thousands of women whose children were killed in wars against the French and South Vietnam, a report said Monday. More than 4,500 women will be awarded the title "Heroic Mother of Vietnam" but 1,919 of the honours will be made posthumously, the Vietnam Courier said, quoting officials of the standing committee of the National Assembly. The oldest woman to be honoured will be 91-year-old Nguyen Thai Thang, who lost three children during the decades of war fought in Vietnam. The honourees also include two mothers in southern Kien Giang province who each lost seven children in wars between the 1940s and 1980s. Millions of Vietnamese died in conflicts, first against the French and Japanese, then against the southern regime, the United States and its allies and, after 1975,

S. Korean child prodigy wins cello prize

PARIS (AFP) — South Korean child prodigy Han Na Chang won the top prize of 70,000 francs (\$14,000) at the Rostropovich Cello Competition here late Saturday. Chang, 11, who is as tall as her instrument, also won a contemporary music prize worth 5,000 francs (\$1,000). Born in Suwon, South Korea in December, 1982, Chang is still studying at New York's Juilliard School on a scholarship. She came top out of 83 cellists in the competition which began on Oct. 5. An international panel of judges chaired by Russian conductor and cellist Mstislav Rostropovich awarded the second prize of 50,000 francs (\$10,000) to Germany's 18-year-old Wolfgang Schmidt.

Tycoon's son to wed somewhere above India

NEW DELHI (R) — An Indian businessman's flight of fancy will carry his son aloft Tuesday to marry his betrothed somewhere above India. Laxman Popley, a Dubai-based expatriate Indian, spent 140,000 rupees (\$4,444) to charter an Air India Airbus A-310 for the occasion, the Times of India said. Once aloft, Sikh priests will guide Dilip Popley and Sumita Kewalramani in tying to knot some 20,000 feet (6,000 metres) above ground somewhere between Ahmedabad and Bombay, the Hindustan Times said. Popley senior said he hopes the couple, bonded just a tad below heaven, will wing their way into the Guinness Book of Records.

Haitians take to streets after assassination bid rumour

PORT-AU-PRINCE (Agencies) — The United States on Monday denied rumours of a plot to kill President Jean-Bertrand Aristide that had sent thousands of angry Haitians into the streets brandishing sticks and machetes.

The White House said the finding of weapons in the car of Haiti's new army commander Major General Jean-Claude Duperval when he arrived at the national palace in Port-au-Prince did not indicate an assassination plan.

"It was not an attempt at an assassination," White House Chief of Staff Leon Panetta said in Washington on NBC television's "Today Show."

In a separate incident, the bodies of two people who had

apparently been stashed were found in the slum of Cite Soleil, eyewitnesses said on Sunday, the day after Mr. Aristide appealed for an end to violence.

International Police monitor Lieutenant Dario Pellerano confirmed the deaths but did not know the circumstances.

Cite Soleil has been a centre of support for Mr. Aristide and political killings of his supporters took place there during the military regime that ruled Haiti for three years until Mr. Aristide's return.

Mr. Aristide on Monday left the palace for the first time since his restoration, briefly visiting the national museum, near the palace, on

the day commemorating the assassination in 1806 of Haitian independence leader Jean-Jacques Dessalines.

As he left the palace an enthusiastic crowd mobbed the motorcade as it emerged from one exit, forcing it to leave by a different route.

Mr. Panetta commented on reports that grenades and launching devices were seized from Gen. Duperval's car on Sunday when he arrived for a routine appointment at the palace where Mr. Aristide is in residence following his return on Saturday from exile.

Gen. Duperval left after the appointment and his weapons were returned. Mr. Panetta said he usually carried weapons in his car.

Reports of the incident spread through the capital and Haitians took to the streets on Sunday, searching cars at several impromptu roadblocks and calling for the military and police to be dismantled.

Crowds agitated by rumours of an assassination attempt jeered Gen. Duperval on Sunday as he left the palace.

U.S. military vehicles equipped with loudhailers broadcast assurances Mr. Aristide was unharmed and asked people to go home.

Gen. Duperval, who met with Mr. Aristide Sunday, later denied he had planned to kill Mr. Aristide. He was number two in the armed

forces prior to Mr. Aristide's return, ranking after Haiti's military strongman Lieutenant General Raoul Cedras.

Gen. Cedras left Haiti early last Thursday for exile in Panama leaving his number two in charge.

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